

181
PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

Fo

406

N
8

CORRESPONDENCE

WITH

HER MAJESTY'S EMBASSY AT CONSTANTINOPLE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF SYRIA.

7

PRINTED SOLELY FOR THE USE OF THE CABINET.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

CORRESPONDENCE

WITH

HER MAJESTY'S EMBASSY AT CONSTANTINOPLE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF SYRIA.

PRINTED SOLELY FOR THE USE OF THE CABINET.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

| No. | To Lord Ponsonby | Private | Date | Subject | Page |
|-----|------------------|---------|--------------|---|------|
| 1 | Lord Ponsonby | Private | May 28, 1841 | Unsatisfactory state of things in Syria | 1 |
| 2 | To Lord Ponsonby | No. 156 | June 15, | Copy of note to Chakib Effendi. Bad conduct of Turkish authorities in Syria | 2 |
| 3 | Lord Ponsonby | 191 | 8, | Measures for future government of Syria. Misgovernment of Turkish authorities | 3 |
| 4 | To Lord Ponsonby | 168 | July 3, | Copy of note to Chakib Effendi respecting Syrian exactions | 5 |
| 5 | Lord Ponsonby | 192 | June 15, | Despatch from Grand Visier to Nejib Pasha. Vigorous orders sent to the latter | 6 |
| 6 | " | 201 | 16, | Affairs of Syria satisfactorily settled | 6 |
| 7 | " | 206 | 21, | Mr. Wood's report explanatory of affairs in Syria | 8 |
| 8 | " | 207 | 21, | Settlement of Syrian affairs | 17 |
| 9 | " | 209 | 21, | Further report from Colonel Rose of Nejib Pasha's bad conduct | 20 |
| 10 | " | 210 | 22, | Colonel Rose's report respecting Nejib Pasha's opposition to his measures | 20 |
| 11 | To Lord Ponsonby | 175 | July 15, | Copies of Colonel Rose's Nos 42 and 45. Lebanon taxation and Beyrout houses | 22 |
| 12 | " | 181 | 20, | Necessity for removal of Nejib Pasha of Damascus | 22 |
| 13 | " | 183 | 20, | Approving his No. 206 as to affairs of Syria | 30 |
| 14 | Lord Ponsonby | 234 | 13, | Despatch from Internuncio to Prince Metternich respecting Syrian affairs | 30 |
| 15 | To Lord Ponsonby | 194 | Aug. 9, | Copy of Note to Chakib Effendi respecting evidence of Christians | 33 |
| 16 | " | 195 | 9, | Copy of note to Chakib Effendi respecting treatment of Christians | 33 |
| 17 | Lord Ponsonby | 240 | July 18, | Orders sent to Nejib Pasha to behave better | 34 |
| 18 | " | 248 | 27, | Reasons for delaying Mr. Wood's departure for Syria | 34 |
| 19 | " | 250 | 28, | M. Fiaschi's report of Hifati's reply to Lord Ponsonby's note. Promises of Porte to Syrians | 35 |
| 20 | " | 252 | 31, | Porte will carry into effect promises to Syrians | 36 |
| 21 | To Lord Ponsonby | 215 | Aug. 19, | Respecting letter from Syria in No. 252 | 38 |
| 22 | Lord Ponsonby | 265 | 2, | Despatch from Grand Visier to Defterdar of Acra respecting promises to the Syrians | 38 |
| 23 | To Lord Ponsonby | 224 | 26, | Satisfaction at orders respecting Syria | 39 |

| No. | | No. | Date | Page |
|-----|--------------------------|-----|---------------|------|
| 24 | Lord Ponsonby .. | 269 | Aug. 11, 1841 | 40 |
| 25 | " | 277 | Sept. 9. | 41 |
| 26 | " | 291 | 15. | 41 |
| 27 | To Sir Stratford Canning | 2 | Oct. 30. | 44 |
| 28 | Mr. Bankhead .. | 15 | 11. | 45 |
| 29 | " | 16 | 11. | 46 |
| 30 | " | 17 | 13. | 46 |
| 31 | To Sir Stratford Canning | 11 | Nov. 25. | 47 |
| 32 | To Sir Stratford Canning | 17 | 27. | 48 |
| 33 | Mr. Bankhead .. | 41 | 16. | 50 |
| 34 | To Sir Stratford Canning | 30 | Dec. 22. | 50 |
| 35 | Mr. Bankhead .. | 55 | 1. | 51 |
| 36 | To Sir Stratford Canning | 35 | 31. | 53 |
| 37 | Mr. Bankhead .. | 60 | 17. | 55 |
| 38 | " | 62 | 17. | 55 |
| 39 | " | 68 | 24. | 56 |
| 40 | " | 73 | 29. | 56 |
| 41 | To Sir Stratford Canning | 9 | Jan. 22, 1842 | 57 |
| 42 | " | 14 | Feb. 3. | 59 |
| 43 | Mr. Bankhead .. | 7 | Jan. 12. | 59 |
| 44 | Sir Stratford Canning .. | 3 | 24. | 60 |
| 45 | To Sir Stratford Canning | 18 | Feb. 24. | 61 |
| 46 | Sir Stratford Canning .. | 10 | 8. | 61 |
| 47 | " | 12 | 21. | 62 |
| 48 | " | 14 | 16. | 65 |
| 49 | " | 16 | 16. | 73 |
| 50 | " | 20 | 16. | 75 |
| 51 | To Sir Stratford Canning | 24 | Mar. 16. | 75 |
| | | | | 81 |

| No. | | No. | Date | Page |
|-----|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|------|
| 52 | Sir Stratford Canning .. | 23 | Feb. 23, 1842 | 83 |
| 53 | " | 30 | 26. | 83 |
| 54 | To Sir Stratford Canning | 26 | Mar. 24. | 83 |
| 55 | Sir Stratford Canning .. | 40 | 9. | 85 |
| 56 | To Sir Stratford Canning | 41 | April 6. | 87 |
| 57 | Sir Stratford Canning .. | 54 | Mar. 16. | 88 |
| 58 | " | 56 | 17. | 88 |
| 59 | " | Separate and Confidential. | 16. | 89 |
| 60 | " | 66 | 27. | 100 |
| 61 | " | 71 | 29. | 106 |
| 62 | To Sir Stratford Canning | 45 | Apr. 23. | 105 |
| 63 | Sir Stratford Canning .. | 74 | 7. | 107 |
| 64 | " | 75 | 7. | 107 |
| 65 | " | 76 | 7. | 107 |
| 66 | " | (Confld.) | | 108 |
| 67 | " | 77 | 11. | 110 |
| 68 | " | 78 | 16. | 111 |
| 69 | " | 82 | 20. | 111 |
| 70 | " | 93 | 27. | 112 |
| 71 | " | 98 | May 4. | 112 |
| 72 | " | 107 | 7. | 113 |
| 73 | " | 109 | 18. | 114 |
| 74 | " | 106 | 19. | 116 |
| 75 | " | 117 | 24. | 118 |
| 76 | " | 122 | June 2. | 119 |
| 77 | " | 123 | 9. | 119 |
| 78 | " | 134 | 9. | 122 |
| 79 | " | 137 | 9. | 130 |
| 80 | " | 139 | 17. | 131 |
| 81 | " | 135 | 30. | 132 |
| 82 | To Sir Stratford Canning | 136 | 27. | 133 |
| | | 93 | July 21. | 137 |
| | | | | 141 |

| No. 83 | Sir Stratford Canning .. | No. 145 | July 7, 1842 | Prince Metternich's conference with Akif Effendi | Page |
|--------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------|--|------|
| 84 | " | 146 | 7. | Conference of M. Thon with Surim Effendi | 144 |
| 85 | " | 154 | 17. | Petitions against Ex-Emir Beshir (Shehab), and his answers to accusations | 144 |
| 86 | " | 165 | Aug. 16. | Affairs of Lebanon | 145 |
| 87 | " | 175 | 26. | Course to be adopted by the Representatives of Five Powers. Instructions to M. Pisani | 151 |
| 88 | " | 182 | 30. | Language of Reis Effendi on receipt of copy of Instructions respecting Lebanon | 154 |
| 89 | " | 186 | Sept. 8. | Instructions of Representatives respecting Syrian affairs | 156 |
| 90 | " | 190 | 15. | Conference with Turkish Ministers | 161 |
| 91 | " | 195 | 27. | Decision of the Porte respecting future government of the Lebanon | 163 |
| 92 | " | 199 | 30. | Instruction to M. Pisani. Surim Effendi's reply | 165 |
| 93 | " | 204 | 30. | Means of terminating question of government of Mount Lebanon | 167 |
| 94 | To Sir Stratford Canning | Confidential. 227 | Oct. 24. | British Government alide by their demand respecting government of the Lebanon | 168 |
| 95 | " | 128 | 24. | Baron Brunnow's communication to M. de Boutouff respecting Syrian affairs | 169 |
| 96 | " | 133 | 24. | To make inquiries respecting Emir Beshir-El-Kassim's property | 170 |
| 97 | Sir Stratford Canning | 207 | 5. | Notes from the Representatives to the Porte | 170 |
| 98 | To Sir Stratford Canning | 136 | 31. | Approval of conduct in Syrian affairs. | 173 |
| 99 | Sir Stratford Canning | 215 | 17. | Respecting property restored to the Maronites | 173 |
| 100 | " | 228 | 28. | Despatch from Prince Metternich to Baron Kletel | 175 |
| 101 | " | 230 | Nov. 17. | Conference with Surim Effendi on affairs of Syria | 176 |
| 102 | To Sir Stratford Canning | 252 | Dec. 19. | Confession by Omar Pasha of Sheikh Djablath's property. Representations to be made as to property of Sheikh Ismael | 178 |
| 103 | Sir Stratford Canning | 235 | Nov. 26. | State of affairs in Syria | 178 |
| 104 | " | 239 | 26. | Instruction to Colonel Rose | 179 |
| 105 | " | 242 | 26. | Emir Beshir-El-Kassim's claims | 180 |
| 106 | " | 244 | 28. | Secretly informed that Turkish Ministers will give up remaining point of Syrian question | 181 |
| 107 | To Sir Stratford Canning | Confidential. 1 | Jan. 6, 1843 | Ali Effendi has communicated acquiescence of the Porte in views of Allied Courts | 182 |
| 108 | Sir Stratford Canning | 248 | Dec. 5, 1842 | Arrangement of affairs in Syria | 182 |
| 109 | " | 251 | 17. | Note to Porte. Instructions to Colonel Rose and communications with his colleagues | 184 |
| 110 | " | 252 | 17. | Correspondence of the Representatives with reference to solution of Syrian question | 188 |
| 111 | " | 254 | 17. | Surim Effendi's answer respecting the employment of Albanian troops | 196 |
| 112 | " | 256 | 17. | Despatch from Count Nassirou to M. de Boutouff | 196 |
| 113 | To Sir Stratford Canning | 6 | Jan. 20, 1843 | Approval of his conduct in Syrian affairs | 197 |
| 114 | Sir Stratford Canning | 266 | Dec. 31, 1842 | Emir El-Kassim's claims | 197 |
| 115 | " | 9 | Jan. 17, 1843 | Language of Surim Effendi respecting property of Sheikh Ismael and Emir-El-Kassim | 198 |

CORRESPONDENCE

WITH

HER MAJESTY'S EMBASSY AT CONSTANTINOPLE,

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF SYRIA.

No. 1.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 12.)

My dear Palmerston,

Therapia, May 23, 1841.

I HAVE this evening, (and fortunately in time for the messenger,) extremely bad news from Syria. I must be as brief as possible. Rechid Pasha sent as Governor to Damascus Hadji Nejib Pasha, a man who had been during many years Kapou Kiaja to Mehemet Ali (Pasha of Egypt). He has ordered the Christians not to enter Damascus on horseback, and prohibited the wearing any coloured clothes of a light and gay colour, and to dress in black as in former days. He has appointed Sheikh Abdul Hadi Governor of Gaza and Muhassil of the surrounding districts. Abdul Hadi is the man who first assisted Ibrahim to take St. Jean d'Acre, and lately as Mudir, or Supreme Superintendent of the fortress, defended it against the Sultan. He is known to be a traitor and a friend to Mehemet Ali. This appointment made by Nejib gives Abdul Hadi the opportunity of delivering up Gaza to Mehemet Ali, and aiding in restoring Syria to him. Nejib is attacking some of the Emirs of Mount Lebanon because they have refused to tax the inhabitants above their means to pay. Thus Nejib is betraying the Sultan. I write solely to request that you will send for Chekir Effendi, and desire him to write to the Porte and insist upon the punishment of Nejib; his degradation is not enough. An example is absolutely necessary, and one too of great severity, to make these rascally Pashas act with common decency. I entreat you to speak in the strongest terms to Chekir, for it is too bad that a scoundrel like Nejib should be permitted to insult the Christians to whom his Sovereign is indebted for Syria, and be the cause of undoing all that we have done with so much trouble, for assuredly Syria will revolt if these men are allowed to act so as to irritate the whole Syrian nation.

I will here speak in the strongest terms to the Porte, and I dare say I shall succeed, but I shall want the assistance of your declaration to Chekir, and pray remember to tell him that you inform me of all you have said to him.

I will give you other details of the ill conduct of the men sent to Syria. I am furious against Rechid Pasha who seems on all occasions to have selected the greatest scoundrels in the Empire for employment in the offices of trust and power. He is a fool.

Yours, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 2.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 156.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 15, 1841.

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter of the 23rd of May, written as the messenger was about to be despatched from Therapia, containing accounts of the unsatisfactory state of things in Syria, in consequence of the injudicious appointments made by the Turkish Government and its subordinate authorities, and I have in consequence addressed to Chekib Effendi, the Turkish Ambassador at this Court, a note of which I inclose a copy for your Excellency's information.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Viscount Palmerston to Chekib Effendi.

Foreign Office, June 15, 1841.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to inform Chekib Effendi, &c., that Her Majesty's Government have just received with great concern the following information, which, as it bears upon the stability of the dominion of the Sultan in Syria, the Undersigned hastens to communicate to Chekib Effendi.

It appears that Hadji Nejib Pasha has been appointed by the Porte to be Governor of Damascus, although he had been many years in the service of Mehemet Ali, Pasha of Egypt, and was on that account not the fittest person to command in an important city in Syria; and Her Majesty's Government have been informed that Nejib Pasha has begun his administration by edicts offensive to the Christians, whom he has ordered not to appear in the streets of Damascus on horseback, and not to wear clothes of any light or gay colour, but to dress themselves entirely in black.

Hadji Nejib Pasha has, moreover, appointed Sheik Abdul Hadi to be the Governor of Gaza and the Muhasil of the neighbouring districts; and this Sheik Abdul is stated to be the individual who first assisted Ibrahim Pasha to take the fortress of Acre, and who lately, as Mudir, or Supreme Superintendent, defended that fortress against the arms of the Sultan; he is also considered to be still attached to Mehemet Ali. Abdul Hadi, by the situation which he holds, has the power of delivering up Gaza to Mehemet Ali whenever he pleases, and of thus assisting to restore Syria to the Pasha of Egypt.

Hadji Nejib is further accused of oppressing some of the Emirs of Mount Lebanon, because those Emirs have refused to tax the inhabitants of their districts beyond their means of payment.

If these allegations be true, and there is good reason to believe them to be so, there can be no doubt that Hadji Nejib is employing the influence which he derives from his situation as Governor of Damascus, to undermine the Sultan's authority in Syria; and the Undersigned cannot too urgently press Chekib Effendi to advise his Government, not only to dismiss Hadji Nejib from his office, but also to submit his conduct to legal inquiry, in order that he may be duly punished, if it should be proved that he has transgressed the law or violated his duty towards the Sultan.

Her Majesty's Government feel especially called upon to address the Turkish Government on this matter, because of the oppressions which Hadji Nejib is stated to practise upon the Christians. For England having, in conjunction with other Christian Powers, succeeded in restoring Syria to the Sultan, she is entitled to expect that the Sultan, in return for such assistance, should secure his Christian subjects from oppression. The Undersigned, moreover, need scarcely point out to Chekib Effendi, that if a system of oppression is practised against the Christians in Syria, the consequence will

be that the people will revolt against the authority of the Sultan; and such a revolt would be an encouragement to the discontented of all classes to rebel. And how could the Sultan expect the countenance or support of the Christian Powers in maintaining his authority, if the opposition to his authority was provoked by severities and cruelties inflicted on his Christian subjects?

The Undersigned earnestly requests Chekib Effendi to call the serious attention of his Government to these matters without delay; and he has the honour to inform Chekib Effendi that a messenger will be despatched to-morrow evening to Constantinople, by whom any communication which Chekib Effendi may think proper to make to his Government on these matters might be conveyed.

The Undersigned, &c.,

(Signed) PALMERSTON

No. 3.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 26.)

(No. 191.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 8, 1841.

ON the 4th instant I had an interview at Pera with the Internuncio and Monsieur de Titow, to concert the measures to be adopted with regard to Syria. Mr. Wood and Monsieur Laurin were present. It was agreed to advise the Porte:—

1. To remit all illegal taxes, in accordance with the promises made to the Syrians.

2. To appoint a Governor of Jerusalem for the special purpose of affording protection to Christians, and of adjusting the disputes that might arise between the different sects.

3. To issue positive orders to all Ottoman functionaries in Syria, to abstain from opposing any impediment whatever to the free exercise by Christians of the rites of their religion.

4. To allow the Emir Beshir to have a Kapou Kiaja at Constantinople, in order to establish a direct communication between him as Governor of Lebanon and the Ottoman Ministers.

5. To procure from the Sublime Porte acknowledgments of the services rendered by various Syrians in the late war, and rewards.

It was agreed between us that our object should be to obtain from the Porte security for every right enjoyed by the Syrians, and to endeavour to establish as far as possible something like justice in the administration of the affairs of Syria, by the Pashas and other officers of the Porte.

It was agreed that each of us should take his own measures with the Porte in furtherance of the general principles above stated, and on the 5th in the morning, Mr. Wood carried to the Minister for Foreign Affairs a report I had caused him to make upon the subject. The Internuncio has also acted in perfect concurrence with these principles, and the result is that the Minister has agreed to our propositions, with the exception of one point, that relating to the Kapou Kiaja of the Emir Beshir, namely, the Minister declines permitting the Emir to appoint his Kiaja, and insists upon the nomination of a Turk by the Porte to occupy that post.

It is impossible to give details of these affairs with any accuracy until they have been finally settled, but I inclose for your Lordship's information copy of a letter, dated this day, from Mr. Wood. Your Lordship will be so good as to bear in mind that Mr. Wood had no idea his letter would be made known to you, and he is to be excused, therefore, for expressing his opinion with a freedom to me which I authorize and encourage in all whom I have to employ in the public service.

I regret to say that the reports I receive of the state of affairs in Syria are very unpleasant. It is shown that Mehemet Ali is using the influence of money there; that the French agents are numerous and extremely active; that the object of the French seems to be to aid in placing Syria in a situation which shall make good the French declared opinion, that the Porte never would

be able to govern Syria; that the Pashas and other Ottoman authorities are acting in many things with immeasurable folly and great corruption.

Nejib Pasha, for instance, Governor of Damascus, has reimposed upon the Christians many of the restraints upon their actions by which the old Government of the Turks was rendered odious to them. He has ordered that the Christians shall not enter Damascus on horseback, nor wear clothes of any light and lively colour, and that they shall observe some particular modes of salutation expressive of inferiority, when any Turkish functionary is in question; but these vexatious follies are light in comparison with the demand he has caused the Desterdar to make upon the mountaineers for a large sum of money as an impost; a sum, which the Emir Beshir has refused to ask the mountaineers to pay, saying, that the power of the Seraskier and his own united is not sufficient to force them to submit to the exaction.

The moment I heard of this conduct I applied to Rifaat Pasha for his interference to put an end to it, but I regret that I found little disposition to take the necessary steps, and I have been obliged to repeat several times and in very strong language, a demand that Syria should not be thrown into rebellion for the sake of pleasing Nejib Pasha. At last I learn that Rifaat has got the Sublime Porte to write to Nejib saying that strong complaints have been made against his conduct, and ordering him in the most peremptory manner to conduct himself towards every description of subjects with the greatest kindness.

I have desired to be furnished with a copy of the letter.

I beg your Lordship will tell Chekib Effendi that you demand the recal of Nejib Pasha. It is necessary that the British Government should take a very high tone with the Porte, or Syria will be lost by the timidity of the Ottoman Ministers, who are afraid of giving offence to individuals like Nejib, or his protectors, and the loss of Syria will be the consequence. I thought Rechid Pasha had pushed his subservieney to everybody to the utmost possible extreme, but I find he has equals. I may venture to believe that a long experience has enabled me to have a little knowledge of this country, and I am sure that much, very much of the danger with which it is menaced, is caused by the advantage taken by others of the aforesaid timidity, upon which weakness we do not act, for the support of our own just and honourable views, with the same resolution. Advice is of no use. I think things of minor importance had best not be asked for and that details should not be dictated, but assuredly England has the right to insist that Syria—the restoration of which to the dominion of the Sultan is the work of England—should not be thrown away to gratify the stupid will of a Pasha, and that the Syrians who acted upon the faith of Englishmen's declarations, should not be defrauded or robbed of their rights to gratify the avarice of a few Turkish agents.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) **PONSONBY.**

Inclosure in No. 3.

Mr. Wood to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Pera, June 8, 1841.

AFTER I had the honour of writing yesterday to your Lordship, the Baron de Stürmer desired to see me; and in order to convince him that the propositions made to the Porte were in accordance with what was agreed at his house to be done, I took with me the Turkish memorandum I gave Rifaat Pasha. I remained with him an hour, and gave him all the information he desired. He appeared perfectly satisfied with my explanations, for he gave his dragoman orders before me to assure Rifaat Pasha that he perfectly embraced your Lordship's propositions and views, which were also his own.

Immediately after I repaired to the Porte, to ascertain the Council's reply to the propositions, and was told by Rifaat Pasha that it had adopted all, except the one relating to the Emir and the Patriarch's Kapou Kijas. Mr. Pisani and Testa were with me, and we positively remained four hours with Rifaat Pasha arguing the point.

The Porte objects to their having a Kapou Kija at Constantinople, and proposes that they should have each one with the Desterdar in Syria. I told them that I felt certain that neither the Emir or the Patriarch would consent to it, as their object was to have an agent at the Porte to communicate the misconduct of the Desterdar and of the Pasha, if necessary. Every argument was used to convince them of the erroneous view they had taken of it; and it was agreed finally that another Council should be held on Wednesday to reconsider the matter under certain modifications: which are, that in the event the Porte consents to the Emir's having a Kapou Kija at Constantinople, he shall be appointed by the Porte, and shall be moreover a Turk. M. Testa said he could not oppose this, though his original instructions were that the Kapou Kija should be elected by the Emir. I replied that my instructions were the same, and that I would not consent to the modifications before I communicated with your Lordship. The Kapou Kijas of the Pashas are appointed by the Porte and of course Turks. The Emir ought not to expect to enjoy any right the other Pashas do not enjoy; the object would be attained equally as well, and the Porte would make fewer objections to it; but I am very anxious to have your Lordship's directions thereon. Rifaat Pasha declared again that only the Princes of Servia, Wallachia and Moldavia, and Sanos, had the right of selecting and appointing their own Kapou Kijas, and that the Porte would never consent to place the Emir in the same independent condition, which affected the independence of the Turkish Government.

I shall see the Grand Vizier to-day respecting the Kapou Kija of the Patriarch. I expect to meet with less opposition in procuring the consent of the Porte; but in the event it refuses its assent, and proposes that he should have one with the Desterdar in Syria, what does your Lordship direct me to do in that case? for M. Testa and myself are determined, if possible, to get these affairs settled before the departure of the next steamer.

The Baron Stürmer desired me to say, that besides the 10,000*l.* which he has received for the relief of the Syrians, he has also received a sword for Selim Pasha from the Emperor. It is much to be regretted that Her Majesty's Government do not judge it necessary to send such a statement of their regard to Selim Pasha for his distinguished services.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) **R. WOOD.**

No. 4.

(No. 168.)

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 3, 1841.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a further note which I have addressed to Chekib Effendi, in consequence of what is stated in your Excellency's despatch No. 191, of the 8th of June, respecting the exactions of Nejib Pasha in Syria.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) **PALMERSTON.**

Inclosure in No. 4.

Viscount Palmerston to Chekib Effendi.

Foreign Office, July 2, 1841.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to state to Chekib Effendi, &c., that since the date of the note which he addressed to his Excellency on the 15th of June, Her Majesty's Government have received further information, by which it appears that Nejib Pasha, of Damascus, not content with inflicting many intolerable vexations upon the Christian population of Damascus and its neighbourhood, has called upon the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon to

pay large sums of money, far exceeding what they are able to pay, and notwithstanding that Selim Pasha, the commander of the Sultan's forces in Syria, had, as the people of Lebanon allege, promised, at the commencement of the struggle with the Egyptian forces, that the district of Lebanon should be free from taxes for three years, if the people should cordially and effectively assist the Sultan in expelling the troops and authorities of Mehemet Ali.

The Undersigned earnestly requests Chekib Effendi to represent to the Porte that such exactions must alienate the minds of the Syrian people from the Sultan, and must necessarily incline them to listen to designing men who seek to overthrow the authority which the Sultan, by the assistance of his Allies, has re-established in Syria.

The Undersigned, &c.,

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 5.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 197.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 15, 1841.

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch from the Grand Vizier to Nejib Pasha, Governor of Damascus, written in consequence of representations made to the Sublime Porte of the misconduct of that Pasha. It will appear that the despatch is wanting in precision in stating the orders of the Porte peremptorily, but I am assured that this has been done designedly, to save offering an indignity to a high officer, in a document that is necessarily public, and that secret orders have been sent to Nejib, and the other Pashas, much more precise and much more rigorous.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure in No. 5.

The Grand Vizier to Nejib Pasha.

(Traduction.)

NOUS nous occupons des réponses qu'il sera nécessaire de donner à plusieurs dépêches de votre Excellence.

Dans une de vos dépêches que nous venons de recevoir, il est dit que, considérant que ne pas accepter les chevaux donnés par quelques Sheiks à votre Excellence, ainsi qu'au Desterdar Enver Effendi, ce serait établir un usage, ce qui ne serait pas convenable, vous les avez reçus en donnant une compensation.

Mais dans une lettre que je vous ai écrite dernièrement, je vous ai parlé longuement et dans une manière particulière, du bruit qui court que vos gens et ceux du Desterdar se font donner de l'argent (comme moyen de corruption) pour faire aller certaines affaires. Je vous ai dit en même temps, que nous ne croyons pas que votre Excellence fasse une chose pareille, mais que cependant si vos gens ou ceux du Desterdar se trouvent avoir pris quelque argent comme ci-dessus, il fallait que cet argent fût rendu sur le champ à ceux qui l'avaient donné, en prenant soin que des choses pareilles n'arrivent plus; choses contraires à notre attente.

La bonne opinion et la confiance que nous avons en vous, ne nous permettent pas de croire que sous les auspices de Sa Hautesse, votre Excellence daignera faire des choses qui sont contraires à la volonté de la Sublime Porte; et il est clair que dans toutes les occasions vous aurez soin de donner des preuves de désintéressement et d'honnêteté. Mais on vient de nous faire savoir de nouveau, que vos gens et ceux du Desterdar prennent actuellement encore de l'argent, (présent servant à corrompre,) et que c'est par ce moyen là que l'on a donné des places à Suliman Abdul Hadi, à Mohammed El Hadi, à Abdul Fetah, et au Sheik Said; que l'on maltraite les hommes qui ont des

affaires à représenter; qu'on traite les Chrétiens avec mépris,—on les moleste par rapport à leur habillement, et on les empêche de monter à cheval; qu'il y a d'autres abus semblables; que toutes les affaires sont dans les mains de vos gens; et que vous avez pris des environs de Damas jusqu'à 160 chevaux.

Les véritables intentions de Sa Majesté Impériale et de tous les Ministres de la Sublime Porte, sont que toutes les classes de sujets sans exception, soient également protégées contre toute injustice et à l'abri de toute vexation; et particulièrement que dans ces pays là, on observe tous les principes de justice, et l'on tienne les procédés les plus doux, les plus bienveillants, afin de ne pas donner lieu à la moindre plainte. Enfin, nous tenons beaucoup à ce que la meilleure administration soit exercée, et que les rayns soient protégés.

Votre Excellence est un homme sage et éclairé; un des plus illustres Vizirs de l'Empire. Elle ne souffrira donc pas que dans les temps délicats où nous nous trouvons, il arrive des choses contraires à la volonté souveraine; et votre sagacité nous est garantie que dans chaque occasion vous vous conformerez aux circonstances et mettrez vos soins à répandre les bienfaits de la protection et de la justice. Supposé, par exemple, que des hommes à votre service prennent de l'argent comme prix de corruption, vous les leur défendrez, vous les chasserez, vous les en punirez. Et après tout, puisqu'on parle de ces choses là, il se peut bien qu'elles ne soient point tout-à-fait dénuées de fondement. L'acceptation, d'ailleurs, des chevaux dont il a été parlé plus haut, corrobore les faits dont on parle. Si vos gens, ou ceux du Desterdar, ont pris des cadeaux de corruption, il faut qu'ils soient restitués à ceux qui les ont donnés; et nous avons donné au Desterdar d'Acre, Edhem Bey, les instructions nécessaires à cet égard; celle-ci étant une affaire de grande importance.

Il n'est pas possible que les communications faites par les agens de quelques Puissances amies soient dénuées de fondement d'un bout à l'autre; or, quand une petite partie en serait vraie, croyez quel tort cela fait à nos intérêts.

Votre Excellence tâchera de faire tout ce qu'il faut pour rendre aimable aux yeux des populations l'administration exercée par la Sublime Porte.

Quoiqu'il en soit, considérant que les chevaux reçus sont déjà reçus, et voulant conserver votre influence morale, on vous dispense de rendre des chevaux pris il y a déjà quelque temps, et pour lesquels on a donné une compensation. Mais on rendra sans délai les autres objets, en donnant à chacun le sien. Vous arrangerez désormais chaque affaire suivant les règles de l'équité et comme elle mérite de l'être; et vous aurez soin qu'il n'arrive plus des choses contraires à la volonté de la Sublime Porte. Désormais, ni votre Excellence, ni le Desterdar, ni vos gens, ni les siens, ne recevrez ni des chevaux ni d'autres objets. Et comme alors aucune compensation ne sera nécessaire, vous ne donnerez rien en retour; votre Excellence ne négligera point les affaires de l'un et de l'autre: elle n'en occupera elle-même; elle répandra les bienfaits de la justice, et en agissant de la sorte, elle sera béni, avec son administration particulière, celle de la Sublime Porte.

Votre Excellence aura soin de prendre des mesures énergiques tendant à ce que les gens à son service particulier se comportent de manière à ne causer aucun préjudice à qui que ce soit; et surtout, à ce qu'ils ne reçoivent point des cadeaux (faits pour gagner ceux à qui ils sont donnés), des cadeaux de cette nature étant une chose abominable, une chose nuisible et dans ce monde et dans l'autre. Et, de concert avec le Desterdar, vous vous efforcerez dans toutes les occasions, de faire en sorte à ne vous attirer dans les affaires que vous aurez à traiter, aucune responsabilité personnelle; étant à ces fins que je vous écris cette lettre.

No. 6.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 9.)

(No. 201.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 16, 1841.

I THINK the affairs of Syria are settled in a satisfactory manner. I will report to your Lordship on the subject next week.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 7.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 6.)

(No. 206.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 21, 1841.

I THINK it proper to lay before your Lordship materials for the better formation of a judgment of the arrangements made for Syria, and of the difficulties that have been encountered and overcome. These materials are some letters and reports by Mr. Wood, explanatory of affairs, and also of his execution of my instructions to him. I beg leave to say that whilst I assign to Mr. Wood the merit of these arrangements, for the most stringent and effective parts of them are due to him, I will not refuse the entire responsibility of what has been done, as every bit of it was carefully examined by me, and alterations made where I thought change necessary.

I trust your Lordship will perceive and be contented with the ability and courage shown by Mr. Wood.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

Memorandum of Propositions agreed upon at a Conference at Therapia, respecting Syria.

AT a conference of their Excellencies the Viscount Ponsonby, Baron de Stürmer and M. Titow, it was agreed upon that the following five propositions should be made to the Sublime Porte:—

1. That the Turkish Government should execute faithfully the promises it made to the Syrians, of re-establishing their ancient rights and privileges, in the event that they returned to their allegiance, &c.

The Sublime Porte has declared formally its intention of doing so. Instructions and orders will be transmitted to its officers, to allow the Syrians, and particularly the Christians, to enjoy the rights and privileges they enjoyed during the Egyptian administration, with such modifications as the Turkish law requires.

2. That the Turkish Government should be persuaded to remit all illegal taxes in Syria, as well as all such taxes as were with justice obnoxious to the people.

The Sublime Porte had already transmitted instructions to the above effect, but as it does not appear they were properly understood, a new Desterdar has been appointed, with extraordinary powers, to examine into the complaints of the Syrians, remit all illegal taxation, and report his opinion with regard to what ought further to be done to relieve them from unnecessary burdens, &c.

3. That as the Emir Beshir and the Maronite Patriarch requested each to have a Kapou Kiaja, the Sublime Porte should be prevailed upon to accede to their request.

The Sublime Porte has complied with their demand, and each is to have his agent to communicate direct with the Ottoman ministers.

4. That a "Ferik" should be appointed to the Government of Jerusalem, for the special protection of the Christians, &c.

The Sublime Porte has consented to make this special appointment for the tranquillity and happiness of its Rayah subjects, &c.

5. That the Sublime Porte should be induced to reward the Sheiks and other individuals who served faithfully during the war.

The Sublime Porte has given a list of the individuals to be rewarded, to his Excellency the Desterdar, with strict orders to reward them on his arrival in Syria.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Therapia, May 12, 1841.

Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

Memorandum on Syrian Affairs.

LETTERS from Syria that have reached to-day, contain the following particulars:—

"Nejib Pasha has ordered that the Christians are not henceforward to enter Damascus on horseback. He has ordered them besides to wear black instead of white turbans, and never to appear in clothes of a light colour.

"He has appointed Sheik Mohamed Abdul Hadi, Governor of Gaza and Mubassil of the surrounding districts; Sheik Mohamed Abdul Hadi assisted Ibrahim Pasha in 1831 to take Acre, and has, in the late campaign, defended that fortress personally against the allied forces. He is known to be a traitor, and a friend of Mehmet Ali. Nejib Pasha, therefore, by appointing him Governor of Gaza, which is on the borders of Egypt, has given him the facility of betraying Syria a second time into the hands of Ibrahim Pasha."

Nejib Pasha is about to deprive Emir Said-el-Deen and Emir Effendi of the command of their districts in Anti Lebanon, because they refuse to tax the mountaineers beyond what they can pay.

These two Emirs served most gallantly in the late campaign against the Egyptians, have a right to the command of their districts, and will not give them up without a struggle.

The Musteshar Effendi has asked the Emir Beshir to pay him a tribute of five thousand purses annually, but the Emir has refused to accede to the demand, stating that, were the attempt made to tax so heavily the mountaineers, they would revolt, in which case neither the Sernakier or himself possessed the means of appeasing them. The Musteshar Effendi, however, persisted in his demand and the Emir offered his resignation; fortunately a third party interfered, and an arrangement was entered into. Should the Musteshar Effendi force the Emir to resign his government of Mount Lebanon, a civil war will immediately ensue between the Christians and Druses.

The discontent is growing general in Syria; the causes are too numerous to detail here; but the information received from different parts of the country tends to show that a revolt is not far distant.

Therapia, May 28, 1841.

Inclosure 3 in No. 7.

Mr. Wood to Rifaat Pasha.

Excellence.

Therapia, 23 Mai, 1841.

JE m'empresse de répondre à la demande de votre Excellence de signaler par écrit quelques renseignements sur la Syrie, ainsi que sur la conduite de quelques uns des employés de la Sublime Porte.

Le "Rishwei" (subornation) n'a été nullement aboli, et les Syriens se plaignent fortement qu'ils ne peuvent demander l'assistance des autorités

locales pour leurs affaires sans qu'ils soient obligés de leur donner de l'argent en cadeau ; ce système est général, et qu'il faut excepter quelques uns des hauts fonctionnaires, cependant presque la totalité de leurs employés sont susceptibles d'être corrompus. Le Divan Effendissay et le Kiaya d'Ali Pacha, Ex-Gouverneur de Damas, se sont enrichis par ce moyen, et on dit que les employés d'Assad Pacha, Gouverneur d'Alep, en font autant. Mais c'est de la vente des charges qu'on a le plus à craindre, puisqu'il en résulte trois graves inconvénients : 1°. Le peu d'attention qu'on met dans le choix du nouveau employé. 2°. Ce dernier ayant acheté sa charge, il emploie sa nouvelle autorité, sans aucune peur, pour s'embourser des frais qu'il a faits. 3°. Le mécontentement que ces vexations cause parmi le peuple.

Outre que l'Armée en Syrie est extrêmement négligée, elle est dépourvue de tous les nécessaires. Elle a cinq mois d'arriérés à recevoir et elle n'a presque pas de commissariat, qui est du reste très mal organisé. Or, l'approvisionnement des troupes devient extrêmement difficile, les paysans se trouvent forcés de fournir des vivres, et ils se plaignent à haute voix qu'ils ont à recevoir déjà 3,000 bourses que son Excellence le Moustéchar Effendi ne leur paie pas. Ils prétendent, par conséquent, que sur ce point ils sont tout autant vexés qu'ils l'étaient pendant l'administration Egyptienne.

J'en ai fait plusieurs représentations au Moustéchar Effendi, mais il m'a répondu toujours qu'il n'avait pas d'argent ; cependant je suis convaincu que son Excellence aurait pu faire des arrangements qui auraient créé moins de mécontentement.

Les officiers de la Sublime Porte en Syrie traitent avec trop de dédain les habitants, ils ne font aucun cas de leurs représentations, et ils ne leur accordent pas l'assistance dans leurs affaires qu'ils ont le droit de réclamer. Cette conduite provenant des hauts fonctionnaires, a beaucoup aliéné l'affection des Syriens, et il est à craindre qu'il pourra bien finir par rendre leur dévouement à la Sublime Porte moins sincère qu'il ne l'était au commencement de la campagne. En outre, l'ignorance des Pachas de la langue, des mœurs et des usages du pays qu'ils sont appelés à gouverner, accélère beaucoup le mal que je viens de signaler. L'indifférence qu'ils témoignent pour tout ce qui se passe autour d'eux, ainsi qu'aux besoins du peuple, ajoutera à son mécontentement, et donnera lieu à beaucoup de confusion et d'anarchie à l'avenir. Déjà l'autorité Turque est moins respectée de ce qu'elle l'était il y a environ quatre mois.

Il se trouve en Syrie une foule d'agens et d'émissaires étrangers ainsi qu'Egyptiens, qui profitent de chaque circonstance pour aigrir les esprits du peuple contre la Sublime Porte pour lui faire perdre son autorité. Leur but est évidemment de créer une réaction en faveur de Méhémet Ali, pour prouver à l'Angleterre que le Gouvernement Turc n'est pas en état et ne possède pas assez d'influence pour gouverner la Syrie, afin d'insister en suite auprès d'elle à ce qu'une autre forme de gouvernement y soit établie. Il en résultera que Sa Hautesse le Sultan perdra tout son pouvoir dans ces provinces.

Pour empêcher la réalisation de leurs mauvaises intentions, la Sublime Porte devrait instruire ses officiers et ses Pachas de montrer plus d'activité, de faire plus d'attention aux besoins des Syriens, et de les gouverner avec plus de justice et de modération, mais de déployer de l'énergie et de la fermeté quand il le faut ;—car ça serait manquer à la confiance que la Sublime Porte a bien voulu me faire l'honneur de me témoigner, si je cachais à votre Excellence que le premier coup de fusil qui partirait en Syrie sera le signal d'une révolution générale,—et comme ce pays est formé de montagnes et de déserts, le Gouvernement Turc s'apercevra trop tard que ses moyens militaires et pécuniaires sont tout-à-fait insuffisants pour l'apaiser.

Le peu de volonté des Pachas de secourir les Syriens dans leurs affaires commerciales ou particulières quand ils leur demandent leur assistance, les oblige d'avoir recours aux agens étrangers, qui se font un mérite de défendre leurs intérêts auprès d'eux. Souvent ils créent expressément des mésintelligence parmi les habitants mêmes pour qu'ils interviennent plus tard,—et c'est par ces moyens qu'ils espèrent d'augmenter leur influence au détriment de celle de la Sublime Porte. A quel profit doivent-ils mettre cette influence si ce n'est pour s'en servir plus tard quand l'occasion se présenterait, contre les intérêts même du Gouvernement Turc ? Pour empêcher les intentions sinistres des susdits agens, si peu d'accord avec l'amitié que leurs Gouvernemens

respectifs professent d'avoir pour la Sublime Porte, les Pachas et les autres employés devraient montrer plus de zèle et de la bonne foi dans l'exercice des fonctions des charges qui leur ont été confiées, et par là acquérir la confiance et le respect du peuple au lieu de les perdre, et augmenter l'influence de leur Gouvernement au lieu que des agens étrangers profitent de leur apathie pour augmenter la leur.

Le montant du revenu de la Syrie s'élevait pendant l'administration Egyptienne à 362,000 bourses ; c'est-à-dire :

| | |
|--------|---------------------|
| Miri | 102,000 bourses. |
| Ferdé | 60,000 |
| Mubaya | 200,000 à peu près. |

362,000 Bourses.

Maintenant que le Mubaya, le Ferdé, et autres impôts sont abolis par le "Taugimati Haïriyé," le revenu se réduira à 72,000 bourses seulement, tandis que le montant des dépenses et des frais du Gouvernement en Syrie, d'après un calcul approximatif, s'élève à 140,000 bourses par an, ce qui occasionnera un déficit annuel de 68,000 bourses. Dans une entrevue que j'ai eu l'honneur d'avoir avec leurs Excellences Selim Pacha et le Moustéchar Effendi, il a été décidé de ne point établir le Tahrire Mal, ou l'impôt de 10 pour cent sur la valeur des propriétés. La pleine conviction que la perception de cet impôt causerait de grands inconvénients dans le pays (une insurrection), nous a fait adopter cette décision. Comme pourtant les frais montent à peu près le double du revenu, j'ose suggérer à votre Excellence que la Sublime Porte continue à percevoir le demi du "Mubaya" à la place de l'impôt sur les propriétés, ce qui donnera une rente annuelle de 100,000 bourses.

Cette somme augmentera le total du revenu à 172,000 bourses, et par ce moyen,—malgré les énormes dépenses qu'il a été dit plus haut s'élèvent à 140,000 bourses,—il restera toujours la somme de 32,000 bourses pour ses frais extraordinaires.

Il est à regretter que la Sublime Porte ait cru nécessaire d'envoyer un si grand nombre de hauts fonctionnaires en Syrie. En les augmentant, on n'a fait qu'augmenter dans la même proportion les moyens d'opprimer et de vexer le peuple. Leurs salaires montent déjà à 1,600 bourses par mois, ou bien à un quart du revenu de la Syrie.

Il ne sera pas difficile de diminuer leur nombre en adoptant un autre forme d'administration (Supplément, No. 1) ; mais je me réserve l'honneur de soumettre plus tard à votre Excellence mes observations sur ce sujet important.

Quoique la conduite du Lieutenant-Général Réchid Pacha a été jusqu'à présent irréprochable, cependant comme j'ai raison de croire qu'il se propose d'user des mesures violentes envers les habitants, je me fais un devoir d'en prévenir votre Excellence, afin que des instructions lui soient transmises pour lui servir de guide dans l'exercice de ses fonctions. Il serait convenable qu'il de semblables instructions soient envoyées aussi à tous les Pachas et Destordars,—car la Sublime Porte a plus à craindre de l'insouciance et du manque de tact de ses employés que des actes des Syriens contre son autorité.

J'ai appris avec peine que son Excellence Nejib Pacha vient de proposer Mahmoud Abdul Hadi pour être nommé Gouverneur de Nablous. Cet individu est l'oncle du Gouverneur actuel, Suleiman Abdul Hadi, et tous les deux, par leur tyrannie et leur oppression, ont portés les Nablousiens au comble de désespoir.

Les membres de la famille d'Abdul Hadi ont toujours soutenu les intérêts de Méhémet Ali. Ce sont eux qui ont aidé Ibrahim Pacha de s'emparer de St. Jean d'Acre, et c'est bien eux qui l'ont défendu jusqu'au dernier moment contre les forces des Alliés. Je prends la liberté de transmettre des différens documents en idiome Turc qui m'ont été donnés par le Séraskier Selim Pacha, qui prouveront à votre Excellence que Mahmoud et Suleiman Abdul Hadi sont des traîtres. Suffit-il de dire qu'il y aurait eu dernièrement une révolution dans la Montagne de Nablous si son Excellence Hassan Pacha et moi nous n'y étions pas rendus pour apaiser les montagnards qui demandent à haute voix la destitution de leur Gouverneur, Suleiman Abdul Hadi, et son remplacement par un officier de la Sublime Porte. Je leur ai promis de soumettre

leur demande à votre Excellence à condition qu'ils resteraient tranquilles. Or la confirmation du Gouverneur actuel, ou son remplacement par Mahmoud Abdi Haddi, son oncle, sera le signal d'une sédition immédiate. La Sublime Porte en accordant la demande des habitants de Nablous profiterait en même temps de l'occasion d'y nommer un de ses propres officiers, et ainsi elle parviendrait d'y établir pour toujours son autorité et son influence.

Le gouvernement local est tout-à-fait dépourvu d'argent pour faire face aux dépenses de l'armée, et comme quelque temps s'écouleront avant qu'il puisse percevoir les impôts et le Min, il est à craindre qu'il se verra forcé de vexer le pays pour son approvisionnement. Ceci pourrait bien faire naître des méintelligences sérieuses entre lui et le peuple, qu'il appartient à la sagesse de la Sublime Porte de prévenir à temps.

Si toutefois votre Excellence me le permettra, je me ferai un véritable plaisir de vous soumettre quelques pièces détaillées sur les sujets ci-dessus mentionnés.

Agréer, &c.,
(Signé) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 4 in No. 7.

Memorandum on the Kapou Kiaya of the Emir Beshir, &c.,

LA Sublime Porte a proposé que l'Emir Beshir n'ait un Kapou Kiaya qu'après de son Excellence le Dettendar, le Sousigné a l'honneur d'assurer son Excellence Rifaat Pacha que l'Emir ne consent jamais à cette mesure, puis, d'après le firman impérial qu'il possède, il n'est nullement sous les ordres du Dettendar ou du Pacha de Saida. L'objet de l'Emir est simplement d'avoir un Kapou Kiaya auprès de la Sublime Porte pour qu'il puisse s'entretenir directement avec les Ministres de Sa Hautesse le Sultan dans les différends et les disputes qui peuvent bien avoir lieu entre lui et les Pachas. De plus, les Pachas et autres employés sachant que leur conduite peut être rapportée à la connaissance de la Sublime Porte, se verront obligés de se conduire avec plus de modération et de se comporter selon les usages et les instructions du Gouvernement Turc. La Sublime Porte en refusant de lui accorder cette juste demande obligera l'Emir tôt ou tard, d'interrompre ses communications avec les Pachas, et de se tenir isolé dans son Gouvernement du Mont Liban. Ce qui n'est pas de l'intérêt de la Sublime Porte.

Quant au refus de la Sublime Porte de permettre au Patriarche Maronite d'avoir un Kapou Kiaya à Constantinople, la Sublime Porte se refuse à accorder l'intérêt de la Sublime Porte que le Patriarche, étant sous une protection étrangère, a bien qu'il s'entende directement avec le Gouvernement Turc. Si la Sublime Porte persiste dans son refus de lui accorder sa demande, il continuera à jouir de sa protection étrangère, et lui avec toute la nation Maronite se tiendront, ainsi que le grand Prince, dans un état d'isolement.

La Sublime Porte ne devra pas perdre l'occasion de s'attacher ces deux hauts fonctionnaires, puisque c'est bien eux qui demandent ce rapprochement.

Ce 8 Juin, 1841

Inclosure 5 in No. 7

Mr. Wood to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Paris, June 14, 1841

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a memorandum I drew up at his Excellency Rifaat Pasha's request, containing the propositions agreed upon between your Lordship, Baron de Sturmer, and Monsieur de Titow.

The Supreme Council consented to adopt the propositions, with unimportant modifications, with the exception of the one relating to the nomination

of Kapou Kiaya, to represent the interests of Emir Beshir and of the Maronite church and nation, at the Sublime Porte.

So soon as I was made acquainted with the above objection, I endeavoured to remove it by submitting to the consideration of Rifaat Pasha, all the observations in my power, which, after a conference of four hours, made some impression on his Excellency, who desired me to furnish him with another memorandum on the subject, and which I have the honour to inclose herewith.

I was, moreover, desirous to see the Grand Vizier, and to convey the same observations to his Excellency, with which I complied immediately.

I availed myself of the opportunity thus afforded me to communicate your Lordship's opinions, and to ask his Excellency what answer the Ottoman ministers were prepared to give to their Sovereign and to Europe should they lose Syria, so recently conquered, through neglect in adopting the measures suggested to them for the redress of the Syrian grievances, for the security of the natives against the abuse of the authority of their own officers, and for the better establishment of the Sultan's authority, &c.

From the indirect remark made to me by his Excellency, that all the Mussulmans were soldiers, and would unite to suppress rebellion whenever it became necessary, I inferred the suspicion that the Sublime Porte entertained of our intention to support the rayahs of the Ottoman Empire, in their resistance, and particularly the Syrian Christians; for I presume his Excellency intended to insinuate, that in the event of our attempting to countenance the rebellion of the rayahs, the Sublime Porte could, or would, have recourse to a levy en masse of the Turkish population.

Without betraying to the Grand Vizier that I had understood his insinuation, I replied that the very Mussulmans they intended levying en masse were the same that were actually in open rebellion in Diarbekir, Orfa, Mesopotamia, Arabia, &c., and that, therefore, I thought the Sublime Porte had more to apprehend from its Turkish subjects than from the Christians. I remarked that the earnestness we showed in our endeavours to persuade the Sublime Porte to adopt measures for the entire pacification of its newly-conquered provinces, ought to be received as a further proof of our sincerity to preserve the tranquillity of the Empire, which we were desirous should prosper and acquire strength and stability, since, had our intentions been otherwise, we had only to remain quiet spectators of passing events until the Porte's officers in the interior accomplished, by acts of folly and oppression, its entire disorganization.

Without dwelling longer on the topics that formed the subject of a prolonged conversation of an hour, I will briefly state, that the Grand Vizier expressed his thanks for the friendly and open advice I gave him in your Lordship's name, which he said was a mark of the great sincerity that Her Majesty's Government had at all times taken in the well being and prosperity of the Ottoman Empire, and concluded by assuring me that the rejected proposition should form the subject of the deliberations of a Council to be held expressly.

His Excellency Rifaat Pasha has since communicated to me the resolution of the Sublime Porte to accede to the demand of the Emir Beshir to have a Kapou Kiaya, observing the same rules and formalities as in similar nominations. The same privilege has been granted to the Maronite Patriarch, who has been, moreover, allowed to appoint to that office the individual of his own choice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. WOOD

Inclosure 6 in No. 7.

Memorandum presented to Rifaat Pasha by Mr. Wood.

LES nouvelles arrivées par le dernier vapeur de la Syrie, sont peu satisfaisantes, elles parlent beaucoup de l'effet que l'insurrection en Candie a eu sur les esprits des Syriens, et particulièrement des Chrétiens du Mont Liban,

qui, trompés sur leur attente de se voir gouvernés avec justice et modération, se sont mis en communication secrète entre eux, pour aviser sur les moyens d'offrir de la résistance aux autorités locales, en cas qu'elles persistent de les opprimer et de leur enlever leurs droits et privilèges. Les agents et émissaires étrangers les encouragent dans cette idée en tachant de les persuader de la faiblesse de la Sublime Porte, du succès qu'ont eu les Candiotés jusqu'à présent, et du peu d'espoir qu'ils ont de se voir bien gouvernés. Ces mêmes émissaires disent ouvertement qu'il est dans leur pouvoir de soulever le peuple de la Syrie quand ils le veulent.

La conduite de Nedjib Pacha contribue beaucoup à bâter un mouvement rédition en Syrie. Il a donné des ordres de faire sauter injustement un Chrétien nommé Tami Bahos, pour avoir exécuté les ordres de son chef l'Emir Béchir. Cet acte est contraire aux droits des montagnards qui ne sont responsables qu'à l'Emir Béchir. Ils se sont par conséquent portés sur plusieurs points pour délivrer des mains des gardes Turques le suadit Tami Bahos. L'indiscrétion donc de ce Pacha causera le premier acte des Syriens contre son autorité.

Nedjib Pacha a aussi l'intention de destituer l'Emir Said-el-Deen et l'Emir Effendi, gouverneurs des districts de Hasbeyn et Rasheyn. Ces deux Emirs ont des droits à la reconnaissance de la Sublime Porte pour leurs services dans la dernière campagne. Leur destitution causera des troubles dans l'Anti-Liban où ils jouissent d'une grande influence et autorité. Il a fallu deux ans à Ibrahim Pacha pour les soumettre.

Les impôts auxquels le Moustéchar Effendi a voulu soumettre la Montagne des Emirs Bechir sous le cas d'être sa résignation. L'Emir a déclaré ouvertement que si on l'obligeait de percevoir le chiffre de tribut qu'on lui demandait, il y aurait une insurrection difficile à apaiser puisque les moyens nécessaires lui manqueraient totalement; une guerre civile entre les Druses et les Chrétiens serait la conséquence immédiate de la résignation de l'Emir Béchir.

Malgré la convention ou pacte signé par les Sheiks Arabes du Sud de s'abstenir des hostilités les uns contre les autres (et que le Soussigné a eu l'honneur de remettre à votre Excellence avant hier), le départ de son Excellence Hassan Pacha de Jaffa, a été suivi d'une attaque des Arabes contre le tribu de Sheik Mohamed Abdul Neby, et les villages ont été pillés. Sheik Mohamed Abdul Neby s'est rendu auprès de Nedjib Pacha pour se faire rendre justice, et si la Pacha le lui refuse, il emploiera ses propres moyens pour se venger.

Dans le cas que la Sublime Porte se propose de nommer un "Ferik" pour gouverner les districts de Gébail Hahil, Gébail Koodoon (Jérusalem), et Gébail Nablous, le Soussigné ose recommander Hassan Pacha pour remplir ce poste. Son intégrité, son zèle, et la connaissance qu'il possède de ces lieux, le rendent digne de cette préférence.

Les "Shouras" (Conseils Municipaux) refusent de recevoir le témoignage des Chrétiens. Ce refus, si humiliant pour cette partie des sujets de la Sublime Porte, est contraire aux volontés de Sa Hautesse le Sultan. Comme la loi Turque ne rejette pas toujours le témoignage des Chrétiens, ceux-ci demandent à savoir où existe l'égalité que le Hatt-Shériff de Gulhann vient d'établir entre tous les sujets Turcs sans rapport à leurs dogmes religieux.

Les Shouras ont commencé de plus à renvoyer presque toutes les affaires aux Mekkémes (cours de justice), qui de l'autre côté sont devenus extrêmement corrompus. La vénalité des juges est arrivée au point d'empêcher le monde d'avoir recours à eux. Or, les Syriens, outre l'humiliation à laquelle ils sont exposés, et l'enlèvement de leurs privilèges que Méhémet Ali même respectait, n'ont non plus les moyens de se faire rendre justice. Les événements qui viennent de se passer dans l'intérieur de l'Empire Turc, ne devraient point laisser douter à la Sublime Porte quel serait le résultat d'un pareil état de choses en Syrie.

Les impôts qui existaient dans le temps d'Abdallah Pacha existent toujours tels que les taxes sur l'industrie, malgré qu'ils furent abolis pendant la guerre; et les habitants de Saïda et de Sour ont refusé de payer la dîme.

Le Patriarche Maronite et son Excellence l'Emir Béchir prient la Sublime Porte de leur accorder le droit d'avoir chacun d'eux un Kapou Kraya (Agent). Le Soussigné prend la liberté de suggérer à votre Excellence la

prudence et l'avantage qu'il y aurait en accordant à ces deux dignitaires le privilège dont tous leurs égaux jouissent auprès de la Sublime Porte. Les Pachas en Syrie se conduiront avec plus de discrétion et de prudence, de peur que leur conduite ne fût rapportée à sa connaissance par l'entremise des Kapou Krayas. Cette proposition devrait être adoptée sans délai.

Le Soussigné vient de recevoir des lettres de Jérusalem qui l'informent de scènes honteuses qui ont eu lieu entre les Français, les Grecs, et les Arméniens, pendant les fêtes de Pâques. Elles ont eu lieu à la suite de la lecture d'un firman dont le Consul de la Russie en était porteur. Ces scènes souvent répétées peuvent mener à des conséquences fâcheuses, sinon à des reproches adressés à la Sublime Porte par les Cours de l'Europe. En cas que la Sublime Porte se décide d'envoyer à Jérusalem un Ferik pour y gouverner, il ne sera pas difficile de trouver et de suggérer les moyens de mettre un borne à ces disputes et à arranger les différends de ces sectes à l'avantage exclusif de la Sublime Porte.

Des nouvelles récentes de Jaffa annoncent l'arrivée de Meneckly Ahmet Pacha à El-Ariab, où il s'occupe actuellement à acheter des provisions en grande quantité, et à faire creuser plusieurs puits. Il est évident que Méhémet Ali se propose d'y placer un corps d'armée. La nomination par conséquent de Sheik Mahmoud Abdul Hadi au gouvernement de Gaza devient plus dangereuse encore, puisque ce traître est capable de faciliter secrètement les mauvaises intentions du Pacha d'Egypte.

La pièce ci-jointe sous No. 1, est une pétition des Grecs Catholiques de Nazareth, qui se plaignent du mauvais traitement des Musulmans; et le Soussigné en portant leurs justes griefs à la connaissance de votre Excellence, se permet la liberté de les accompagner de quelques observations générales.

Quand le Soussigné s'étant rendu en Syrie, la Sublime Porte l'avait spécialement instruit de s'assurer de la coopération des Chrétiens contre les Egyptiens, et de leur promettre pour récompense le rétablissement et la confirmation de leurs droits et privilèges, et la mise en exécution des provisions du Hatt-Shériff de Gulhann à leur égard. Il est à présumer donc, que la Sublime Porte, en s'adressant aux Chrétiens, mettait plus de confiance dans leur loyauté, intelligence et courage. Malgré que par leurs services distingués ils ont démontré combien ils étaient dignes de la bonne opinion que la Sublime Porte avait formé d'eux, la Sublime Porte a-t-elle tenu ses engagements envers eux? Non! Mais il est pourtant de son intérêt de réfléchir que si les Pachas leur ont fait perdre leur loyauté en ne pas exécutant ses promesses solennelles de leur Gouvernement, que leur intelligence et leur courage leur restent intacts encore.

Déjà le Soussigné a signalé l'effet mal qu'a produit l'insurrection des Grecs de la Cilicie sur les esprits des Catholiques en Syrie, et comment les agents étrangers les encourageaient de sorte par exemple. Les Autorités Turques ont refusé l'attachement des Syriens, et ont plutôt escompté et encouragé les Grecs pour les inciter à se révolter contre le Gouvernement. La Sublime Porte ne doit pas vouloir se contenter d'envoyer des troupes à sa disposition en Syrie, mais elle doit veiller aussi à ce que les Grecs ne soient pas encouragés et à la suite, par la révolte, que l'insurrection venant à se déclarer en Syrie, et que Sa Hautesse le Sultan aura le droit de rendre les Grecs des Musulmans pour la perte d'un des lieux les plus précieux de sa couronne par la révolte. Ceci par la faute de ceux dont le devoir est de le lui conserver en suivant les mesures qu'ils ont été souvent indiquées à cet égard.

Le Soussigné s'est fait un devoir de transmettre par l'entremise de Hussein Pacha, sous date le 22 Février, une liste des personnes qui, par leur services pendant la guerre, s'étaient rendues dignes de la munificence de leur Auguste Souverain, en indiquant aussi le degré de récompense qu'ils méritaient. Dans la même époque, le Soussigné avait transmis aussi la prière de l'Emir Béchir que le terrain nommé Kourat-el-Tahita lui soit rendu ou bien loué en ferme par le Gouvernement Turc. Le Soussigné ose prier son Excellence de vouloir bien prendre en considération les deux sujets ci-dessus mentionnés.

(Signé)

RICHARD WOOD.

Therapia, le 27 Mai, 1841.

Inclosure 7 in No. 7.

Memorandum containing the propositions agreed upon by Viscount Ponsonby, Baron de Stürmer, and M^r de Titow, and presented to Rifaat Pasha by Mr. Wood at His Excellency's request.

(Translation.)

1. MR. WOOD in his verbal communications with Rechid Pasha, at that period Minister for Foreign Affairs, was desired by him to promise the Syrians the enjoyment of their ancient rights and privileges in case they returned to their allegiance to the Sublime Porte, and that, moreover, they should be exempted from all illegal taxation. The Mustashar Selamy Effendi having acted contrary to the above promises, the Sublime Porte should be advised in the names of the three Ministers as above, to observe the rights and privileges of the Syrians, and should remit all illegal taxes.

Besides the tithes, a property tax of 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, and a custom-house duty of 12 per cent. on silk, making in all 32 per cent. on property and produce, have been demanded. As the Syrians, however, are not in a condition to meet these demands, they should be made to pay only the tithes on grain, the "miri" and the customs.

It will be difficult to establish the property tax; any attempt will most likely lead to an insurrection. In its stead, therefore, half of the "mubeaya" (fixed contributions in kind) may be levied for the supply of the troops.

2. His Excellency the Emir Beshir and the Maronite Patriarch request to have each a Kapou Kiaja (agent) at the Sublime Porte. Hitherto the Maronite Patriarch applied to the French Consul for assistance in the affairs of the Maronite Church. In order, therefore, to lessen and weaken the influence of the French with the mountaineers, the Sublime Porte ought to comply with his request.

Disputes and unpleasant altercations often occur between the Emir Beshir and the Pasha. To obviate this evil the Emir should be allowed also to appoint a Kapou Kiaja. By these means, whenever disputes occur between him and the Pasha, he will be able to refer them to the Sublime Porte, and both the Emir and the Patriarch will be thus put in direct communication with the Ottoman Ministers. It will have the effect besides of deterring the Pashas from committing abuses when they are aware that their conduct is liable to be reported.

3. A Ferik should be appointed to the Government of Djebail Koodos, Djebail Nablous, and Djebail Halil, who should reside at Jerusalem for the special protection of the Christians, and for the adjustment and settlement of their differences and disputes, as well as to prevent the various sects from interfering with each other, &c.

As many disputes exist between the Armenians, Latins, and Greeks, with regard to the possession of holy places and sanctuaries, the Greek and Armenian Patriarchs of Constantinople should be made to appoint each a commissioner to accompany the aforesaid Ferik to the Holy City, who, on his arrival, should request the Latins to nominate also a commissioner. These three Commissioners and the Ferik, with the assistance of the most respectable inhabitants of the city, should form a commission for the purpose of examining the respective titles of the three churches to the sanctuaries in dispute, so that each should be duly put in possession of what belongs to it by right.

The Sublime Porte should, moreover, issue firmans prohibiting any impediment from being offered to the Syrian Christians in the exercise of the worship, as well as the practice of extorting money from them. And in order that the good and benevolent intentions of the Sublime Porte should be made public, copies of the aforesaid firmans should be transmitted to the Greek and Armenian Patriarchs, and to the Lord Abbot of the Latins.

4. Their Excellencies the British, Austrian, and Russian Representatives alluded in their conference of the other day, to the propriety and justice of rewarding the Shaks and their relatives who served faithfully during the war. Their names and services, and the degree and kind of reward to which they were entitled, were specified in a memorandum presented some

time ago. Their Excellencies, therefore, request and ask that they should be rewarded accordingly.

5. Notwithstanding that their Excellencies Selim Pasha, the Admiral, and others, promised the inhabitants that the Sublime Porte would reimburse them for the destruction of the mulberry plantations and houses that were destroyed at Djouni, at the landing of the Turkish troops, for the construction of an entrenched camp, still not an asper has been given them. The Mustashar Selamy Effendi has reported the amount of the damage on the aforesaid property, and the Sublime Porte is particularly recommended to take the claims of the mountaineers into consideration.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Constantinople, June 5, 1841

No. 8

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 8.,

(No. 207.)

Therapia, June 21, 1841.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose documents, of which I subjoin a list.

They contain the official communication by the Sublime Porte of the measures recommended for the settlement of Syrian affairs.

If the measures are carried properly into execution I entertain no doubt of their being a check on the re-establishment and for the future maintenance of tranquility in Syria but I know the importance of having them well executed and I do not feel any security for their not being so, though, if your Lordship had thought it expedient to appoint Mr Wood Consul-General in Syria, I could have felt entire confidence in that head Mr Wood as Consul-General, would be entitled to exercise a general superintendence. And it is to him the Syrians look as the man who knows best what is necessary to be done, and to whose exertions the remedial measures obtained are mainly due. I am at a loss to imagine why your Lordship has not considered it expedient to make the appointment, but I am not entitled to canvass the motives that direct Her Majesty's Government, and I can only regret that it has not been thought right to take that step, by which I know the English influence would be immensely increased in Syria and the influence of others decrease most advantageously. As Consul for Damascus Mr Wood must continue to be extremely to the affairs of his Consular district. I hope there may not be reason to regret that limitation.

The inclosures are Nos. 1, 2, being the originals of which the analysis forms the additional No. 3.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY

Inclosure 1 in No. 8.

Firman addressed to Ferik Mehmed Tayer Pasha, Governor of Jerusalem and Gaza

(Translated.)

ATTENDU que depuis un ancien temps la mise en pratique par les Chrétiens de la Syrie et des environs, de leur religion, a été une chose conforme à la Sainte Loi, et qu'ils ont obtenu les concessions et les faveurs qu'ils ont obtenues à cet égard en vertu des hérauts et des diplômes munis de Hatti-Sheriff que nous leur avons accordés, mes augustes ancêtres et moi-même, seront en pleine vigueur.

Lorsque les prêtres et les curés des couvens auront recouru à la Sainte Loi, ou bien, lorsqu'ils auront à se plaindre de quelque violence qui leur aura été faite, les magistrats et autres officiers auxquels ils demanderont assistance, ne leur demanderont pas une seule obole, et ils ne permettront pas qu'il leur soit fait le moindre tort ni la moindre violence.

Si jamais il survient des contestations entre les prêtres, et que ces contestations soient difficiles à apaiser là bas, elles seront référées à Constantinople, afin qu'on y examine l'affaire soigneusement et avec équité.

Le plus grand soin sera apporté à protéger, comme cela se pratique *ab antiquo*, les prêtres, les couvens et les églises; ils doivent être à l'abri de toute molestation, de toute violence, de tout préjudice.

Comme les concessions faites et les anciennes immunités accordées aux églises et aux couvens, sont pleinement confirmées, il ne devra y avoir aucun empiétement, aucune contestation contrairement à ces concessions et à ces immunités.

Les prêtres Grecs, Arméniens, et Catholiques, se disputent de temps à autre entre eux en s'accusant à faux mutuellement, au sujet de l'église et de l'oratoire que leur ont été assignés par les Hatti-Sheriffs et les firmans dont il a été parlé plus haut; il faut qu'ils se gardent bien de renouveler leurs anciennes disputes.

Les règles et le système observés dans l'Eglise Orientale *ab antiquo*, touchant le rang et la classe des prêtres, seront également observés à l'avenir; il n'y aura à leur égard nulle innovation.

Lorsque le Patriarche de Constantinople ou celui de Jérusalem demandera l'autorisation de réparer les églises et les couvens qui auront été ruinés ou endommagés, soit par l'effet du temps, soit par des incendies qui sont si fréquentes, et qu'on se mettra à les réparer en vertu d'un firman qui sera donné de la manière voulue par la loi, accordant la permission de la restauration, les magistrats et les autorités locales ne prendront que les droits modérés qu'on est dans l'usage de prendre pour les Hams et les Hogets qu'ils auront donnés, et il ne leur sera nullement permis de prendre, de leur propre chef, rien au-delà, ni cadeau, ni redevance, ni de se procurer des avantages par là.

Il sera défendu aux soldats chargés de la garde de la porte de l'Eglise de St. Sepulchre d'y entrer; ils auront à témoigner aux évêques de Jérusalem toutes sortes d'honneurs.

Telle étant ma volonté souveraine, le présent commandement émané auprès de ma Chancellerie Impériale, et sanctionnant et confirmant mes ordres souverains, a été orné d'un Hatti-Sheriff, et donné à la nation Grecque comme il en a été donné aussi aux nations Arménienne et Catholique.

Vous, donc, Fériq et Juge susmentionnés, lorsque vous aurez que c'est ma volonté souveraine et positive que les Hatti-Sheriffs, les bérats et les firmans donnés à la nation Grecque soient toujours en vigueur et mis à exécution, et qu'il ne soit jamais permis d'y contrevenir, vous aurez soin d'agir conformément au même, et après l'avoir fait enregistrer dans les archives du Mekkemé, vous le laisserez entre les mains de la nation Grecque, en vous gardant bien d'agir d'une manière contraire à ce qu'il prescrit.

Donné au commencement de Gémaziat-avvel, 1257.—(20 Juin, 1811.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 8

Minute of a Vissial Letter to the Pashas of Damascus, Aleppo, and Saida, and to the Pashas of Tripoli in Syria, and Jerusalem.

(Traduction.)

AINSI qu'il est à la connaissance de votre Excellence, le gouvernement des provinces de la Syrie ayant été retiré à Son Altesse le Pacha d'Egypte, et la Sublime Porte devant surveiller soigneusement à leur bonne administration à tous égards, le gouvernement de Damas a été confié à votre Excellence.

Comme Sa Majesté Impériale veut, ainsi que l'exigent et les lois qui se rattachent au Califat, et les règles de l'équité qui sont inhérentes à la Souveraineté, que toutes les classes de sujets de l'Empire Ottoman soient, dans toutes les circonstances, protégés et défendus, vous employerez constamment vos soins à ce que tous les sujets de la Sublime Porte qui se trouvent établis dans les pays compris dans votre gouvernement, sans exception, et quels que soient leur religion et leurs rites, aient à jouir, sous les augustes auspices de Sa Hautesse, de la sécurité de la vie et des biens, et de la conservation de l'honneur.

Si une autorité Ottomane, si d'autres se permettaient quelque mauvais procédé à ces égards envers les rayas, et les molestaient, qu'ils sachent qu'ils s'en rendraient responsables, et c'est ce que vous ferez savoir à ceux qu'il faudra.

Attendu que les évêques et les prêtres sont les chefs (spirituels) des Chrétiens de ces pays là, ils seront défendus et protégés.

Si les rayas, à quelque nation qu'ils appartiennent, ont recours en matière de droit ou autres, aux autorités judiciaires ou militaires, ces autorités auront soin de leur rendre impartialement la plus stricte justice.

Lorsqu'au besoin, les causes des sujets Ottomans devront être examinées et jugées, leurs chefs (spirituels) seront présents à l'audience; et s'il s'agit de sujets des Puissances amies, leurs Consuls respectifs y assisteront.

La capitulation légale sera perçue de la manière qui est établie par l'excellent système introduit par les réformes.

A la demande des Chrétiens, on leur accordera, en autant que la loi l'autorise, la permission de restaurer et construire leurs anciennes églises, leurs couvens, hôpitaux, cimetières et autres endroits, d'exercer leur culte, leurs usages et leurs opérations.

Si un nombre convenable de soldats de police était jugé nécessaire pour empêcher que l'asile des presbytères, des églises et des couvens ne soit violé, et pour leur sûreté, on les fera chercher des corps-de-gardes situés dans le voisinage.

Enfin, votre Excellence mettra tous ses soins à protéger et défendre de toutes les manières les sujets de quelque classe qu'ils soient, et à faire bénir le nom de Sa Majesté Impériale.

Quant aux affaires difficiles qui ne pourront pas être résolues là bas, vous demanderez, pour ce qui les concerne, des ordres d'ici.

Inclosure 3 in No. 8.

Analysis of what the Porte has done for the Syrians, written from the dictation of Rifaat Pasha.

1. LE Férk, Général de division, Tayar Pacha, est nommé Gouverneur Militaire de Jérusalem et de Gaza, pour la protection spéciale des Chrétiens.

2. Un firman accompagné d'un Hatti-Sheriff a été adressé à Tayar Pacha afin qu'il lui serve de ligne de conduite.

3. Une circulaire vizirienne a été adressée à plusieurs Pachas, pour la protection en général des Syriens.

4. Soumouk Effendi, Secrétaire Officiel du Beylikgi, est nommé par la Porte Kapou Kiaya ou Agent Officiel de l'Emir Béchir près du Gouvernement Ottoman. L'Emir Béchir pourra avoir un Agent à Saida pour les affaires courantes.

5. Elias Haws, négociant de première classe, et Alepin de nation, est nommé Kapou Kiaya du Patriarche des Maronites.

6. On a donné au Mouhasil de Saida, Edhem Bey, les ordres et les instructions nécessaires pour les récompenses à être données par la Porte à plusieurs notables de la Syrie qui ont rendu des services au Sultan dans la dernière guerre.

7. On a écrit partout dans toute la Syrie pour ordonner que l'on observe envers le peuple et les Chrétiens la meilleure conduite possible en défendant rigoureusement tout ce qui ressemble à la corruption, au mépris, à l'injustice.

8. D'après les représentations faites par Son Excellence Lord Ponsonby à la Porte le Grand Vizir a écrit aujourd'hui une lettre de réprimande des plus fortes à Nezir Pacha pour lui reprocher ce qu'il a fait, et pour lui ordonner de ne plus donner le moindre motif de plainte à qui que ce soit et de traiter très honorablement tous les Chrétiens, de ne plus les molester par rapport à leur vêtement, &c.

9. On a écrit en Syrie pour avoir des informations sur le Tribut, le Mubazaya, &c.

La Porte établira, après qu'elle aura été bien informée sur ces choses là, un système qui sera tout-à-fait conforme à la stricte équité.

(Signé)

FRED. PISANI.

No. 9.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 209.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 21, 1841

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have just received a report from Colonel Rose, dated Beyrout, 3rd of June, containing further statements of the bad conduct of Nejib Pasha as exhibited in his proceedings with regard to the mission of several officers of Colonel Rose's staff into the interior of Syria.

I will forward copies of Colonel Rose's report and inclosures by the Vienna post of the 23rd instant.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSOMBY

No. 10

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 15.)

(No. 210.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 22, 1841.

WITH reference to my despatch of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inclose copy of Colonel Rose's report to me, dated 3rd of June, on the subject of Nejib Pasha's opposition to the measures which Colonel Rose, in pursuance of your Lordship's instruction, No. 2, to Colonel Bridgeman, is desirous of executing for obtaining geographical information on Syria, for lending his assistance towards the improvement of the Turkish troops in the manner suggested by Colonel Rose, and as proved by your Lordship's despatch to me No. 52 of this year, and for acquiring general information on the state of the inhabitants of the country.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSOMBY

Inclosure 1 in No. 10.

Colonel Rose to Viscount Ponsonby

My Lord,

Beyrout, June 3, 1841

IN my despatch of the 14th ultimo, I had the honour to inform your Lordship that the staff officers serving under my command had been detached to the most important points throughout the country, for the purpose of offering their advice and assistance to the military authorities towards improving the organization of the Turkish army, and also, (in accordance with special instructions to that effect, received from Viscount Palmerston,) of obtaining a correct map and perfect knowledge of the country, the want of which was so glaringly manifested during the recent operations.

I have now the honour to report to your Lordship, that Major Churchill, the officer who, in pursuance of these orders, proceeded to Damascus, waited immediately on his arrival at that city on Nejib Pasha, and explained to him the objects of his mission. The Pasha, however, not only declined his offers of assistance in any shape as regarded military matters, but, on Major Churchill's requesting an escort to proceed to Hama to carry into execution the duty which he had undertaken, he refused to accede to the request; and eventually forbade his travelling in his pashalic until an answer should arrive from Constantinople to a report he had made on this subject.

I take the liberty, therefore, of bringing the matter under your Lordship's notice, and trust that so flagrant an act of ill-will, and so evident an indication of want of confidence in the good faith and friendship of a Power which has done so much for Turkey as Great Britain, and for whose good alone Her Majesty's troops are still kept in this country, will call forth a suitable reprimand on the person who has presumed to act with such arrogance towards the subjects of an ally to whom his own Sovereign is so deeply indebted.

A similar line of conduct has been pursued by the Pasha of Tripoli towards Major Freeston, the officer sent to that city, though in this case the refusal has been cloaked with courtesy; and there is good reason to believe that the Pasha of Tripoli has acted under the advice of Nejib Pasha, as his decision was not communicated to Major Freeston, until he had received a letter by a tatar from Damascus.

As I believe Nejib Pasha to be capable of any deceit, I have the honour to inclose the letters which passed between him and Major Churchill on this subject, (the original letter of the Pasha, and a copy of Major Churchill's,) which fully explain the whole transaction, and will at once show your Lordship that the Pasha purposely misinterpreted Major Churchill's communication. I also inclose an extract (bearing on the matter in question) from the instructions given by me to the different officers on their proceeding to their different destinations.

In conclusion, I beg to refer your Lordship to my despatch, No. 23, detailing the misapprehensions of Nejib Pasha, the same having been written to your Lordship before the misunderstanding I have now the honour to report had occurred, from which your Lordship may judge whether the Pasha's motives in refusing have not arisen from the dread of having near him an inconvenient witness of his peculations and misgovernment.

(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 10.

Substance of Major Churchill's letter to Nejib Pasha

(Translation from the Turkish.)

MAJOR CHURCHILL requests an official answer from Nejib Pasha, whether he will permit him to assist in drilling the Ottoman troops according to his instructions from his superior, which have been approved of by Selim Pasha, and according to the understanding on that subject of the two Governments; and,

Whether he will grant him the requisite passports for travelling throughout Syria for the purpose of acquiring geographical information, and of investigating into the state of the people, as other Europeans do, which has also been sanctioned by Selim Pasha, and which Nejib Pasha has verbally refused to comply with, owing to want of instructions on that subject from the Porte.

Substance of Nejib Pasha's Official Reply

Nejib Pasha recapitulates the demands of Major Churchill, and hopes that his want of instructions from the Porte on the subject will be a sufficient excuse for withholding the permission required. He states, however, that he has written to his Government for instructions on the subject.

Inclosure 3 in No. 10.

Extract of Instructions given to the Staff Officers, on being detached from Headquarters by Colonel Rose.

Sir,

Head-Quarters, Beyrout, April 23, 1841.

I HAVE to request that you will proceed at your earliest convenience, to and there place yourself in communication with the Pasha, (or Governor, as the case may be,) to whom you will deliver the accompanying letter of introduction from his Excellency Selim Pasha, the Turkish General commanding in chief in Syria.

You will state to the Pasha, (or Governor,) that you have, my directions

to offer your services to him to afford any military instructions to the troops, and that should he be pleased to consult you, you will be most happy to tender your advice as to their distribution or movements.

You will also express your intention to attend all parades whilst at ; you will state also that this communication of mine has the full sanction of Selim Pasha.

Should you find his Excellency disposed to receive your assistance, you will propose to him to give instructions to the troops in a few of the most useful and simple movements, such as the extend and the close, the formation of a line of skirmishers, supports and reserves, and of squares; but you are recommended to touch on the battalion drill, which has been already taught on the French system.

No. 11

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby

(No. 175.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 15, 1841

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency copies of two despatches from Colonel Rose, dated the 22nd and 28th of May, containing a report of the discussions which have taken place between the chiefs of Lebanon and the Turkish authorities respecting the amount of the taxation which is to be imposed upon the inhabitants of that district; and I have to instruct your Excellency to bring under the notice of the Porte so much of these despatches as relates to the errors and faults of the Turkish authorities. I think it right, however, to state to your Excellency, that Her Majesty's Government doubt the expediency of giving extraordinary powers to the Djoublatt family, as suggested by Colonel Rose.

Your Excellency should also strongly advise the Porte to settle the question as to the amount of the Lebanon taxes, in such a manner as to satisfy the reasonable wishes of the people; for it is very important that the Porte should avoid giving occasion for any joint or formal interposition of the European Powers in matters of this kind.

Her Majesty's Government would also recommend to the Porte to cause a public inquiry to be made as to the losses which the people in the neighbourhood of Beyrout sustained by the ravages committed by the Egyptian troops last winter, in order that the sufferers may receive compensation, and Her Majesty's Government understand that a few thousand pounds would cover the whole amount of such losses.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 42 A.)

My Lord,

Beyrout, May 22, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship, that on the 4th instant the Mustashar Effendi, accompanied by Selim Pasha, the Seraskier, proceeded to the cordon at the Pine Wood, and read the new firman of taxes to the Governors and Deputies of Acre, Caiffa, Belad B'scherre, and the adjoining districts. They were in number about four hundred. The taxes were the tariff, the 10 per cent., the Ateu, and the Haradj, or religious tax, so called because it is solely levied on Christians, in payment for the protection afforded them by the Mahometans. At the mention of the Ateu, the assembly broke out into loud murmurs, saying, "That is the Ferde, poll-tax. We have been ruined by the taxation under Ibrahim Pasha, but that which you propose is far worse. You may take our horses, but you will never be able to get these taxes from us." The demeanour of the people was threatening, and his Excellency becoming alarmed, adjourned the meeting. Several discussions

have since taken place between the Mustashar and the Deputies, but no satisfactory result was attained, so little so, that on Saturday the 8th instant, the meeting was more stormy than any had yet been.

With respect to the taxes for the Lebanon, I had the honour to state to your Lordship in my despatch, No. 30, of the 3rd instant, that the Turkish authorities had agreed to suspend their operation until they had received an answer respecting them from Constantinople. On Sunday the 3rd instant, the Emir Beshir signed a document, in which he agreed to pay, on the part of the Mountain, the tariff, that is, the 12 per cent. on exports and imports, and 3,500 purses annually to the Sultan, deducting 2,200 purses for the expenses of the government of Lebanon. His Highness also stipulated that his subjects should have permission to import corn, free of duty, at the rate of seven kilos for each family. When His Highness communicated the contents of this agreement to the Deputies of the Lebanon assembled at Beyrout, those of Kesrouan declared that they would pay no taxes, having been exempted from them for three years by a written promise from the Seraskier Selim Pasha, a promise which, they say, was verbally confirmed by Mr. Wood. The other Deputies stated, that if the inhabitants of the Kesrouan were to be exempted, they had an equal right to be so also, having received verbal promises of the same nature as those made to Kesrouan from Her Majesty's and the Sultan's officers, in reward for their rising against the Egyptians. Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins informs me that he heard considerable promises made last year by Her Majesty's servants to the Mountaineers, when he was at Djount.

I had reason to believe that the plan of taxation was a scheme of the Mustashar's, and that he was not authorized to propose it for this country by the Porte; and I mistrusted him, because, at the very time, as I had the honour to state to your Lordship in my despatch of the 3rd instant, that his Excellency was assuring me that he intended to carry through the four taxes—that is, the tariff, the 10 per cent., the Ateu, and the Haradj—his two Secretaries were proposing to his Excellency to state, to the Deputies of the Lebanon, that all the taxes, except the tariff and 4,200 purses.

It is necessary to give to your Lordship a knowledge of the men to whom the Government of Syria is confided. The Mustashar Effendi, who ranks with a Minister of State, has charge of the finances, and is the highest civil authority in this country, has for some time back been suspected of peculation by his colleague in office, Selim Pasha, the Seraskier, who is the highest military authority. The latter directed Mr. Misk, an officer of the customs at Beyrout, to watch the Mustashar, and to furnish him, Selim Pasha, with a return of the duties actually paid at the custom-house. Mr. Misk did so, and on his return he compared what he had found by the Mustashar's return with the list of duties which his Excellency had only credited his Government with daily receipts of 5,000 piastres, whereas by Mr. Misk's return they amounted to 10,000 piastres. The Mustashar hardly ever pays a bill for Government without deducting a per centage for himself. For one quarter alone, not long ago, he received 10,000 piastres for the payment of a Government debt of 200,000 piastres. In Gaza his Excellency sold wheat to a person for 35,000 piastres, and after receiving that money sold the same wheat to another individual for 52,000 piastres. The person who has lost both his money and the wheat is arrived here, and makes urgent applications to the Mustashar for the 35,000 piastres. His Excellency acknowledges his claim, although he declines to pay it. It is calculated that this Minister has made about two millions of piastres by peculation and bribes. On the other hand, the Seraskier was a slave; he reads with difficulty, and is learning to write; and although he is brave and a better soldier than Turks generally are, yet he is very inferior as to ability in other respects. He believes that the world is carried by two bulls, and that earthquakes are occasioned by the movements which they make, and he gave a proof of his ignorance of public opinion, by ordering that the inhabitants of Beyrout should rise from their seats, cease smoking, and salute all English as if they were captains. It was evident, then, that the policy of the Turkish Government in demanding excessive contributions from the Lebanon, which had risen against Mehemet Ali mainly because he had over-taxed her, would be rendered still more hazardous by being under the direction of the Mustashar Effendi and the Seraskier, such as I have described.

them; and the utter destitution of the Treasury made it only too probable that these functionaries would again bring forward their original scheme of taxation, more especially as they had never officially withdrawn it, and still persevered in imposing it on the southern inhabitants of the pashalik. The French agents were exerting themselves again to commit the people by urging them to a rupture, and by mixing a good deal with the inhabitants I became aware of an important circumstance, which was, that the French have, I regret to say, succeeded in some measure in perverting the Maronites, and making them believe that the tariff is of English origin; that the promises made by the English and Turkish officers last year to the Mountaineers have not been kept; and that the latter have never been reimbursed for the damage done to the property in the insurrection. All these circumstances induced Mr. Moore and myself to make a second communication to the Turkish authorities, to enquire, that as a taxation had been demanded from the Lebanon, which the inhabitants, as well as that principally as of other districts, declared they could never pay, and as the Mountaineers, in declining to pay, had urged that they had been exempted from taxes by Her Majesty's and the Sultan's servants acting in concert, in reward for the aid given to Her Majesty's forces and those of His Imperial Highness by the Mountaineers, we were desirous of knowing whether the taxes had been demanded by the order of the Sublime Porte, or whether they were imposed by their Excellencies. We added, that in the latter case, the reasons which the Levant had assigned for a remission of the taxes at least deserved consideration, and that, everything considered, we most earnestly recommended that the present plan of taxation should not be persevered in, till the pleasure of His Imperial Highness the Sultan had been taken on it. The Mustashar and the Seraskier, without giving any answer as to whether the present taxation had or had not emanated from them, agreed to comply fully with our wishes. Conciliatory conduct was adopted towards the Emir Beshir and the Deputies of the Lebanon and the other districts; to the former a sabbre was given, and the latter received presents of cloaks and watches. It was understood that the taxes would not be enforced for the present, with the exception of the tariff, which is low; and the Emir Beshir received the sanction of the Turkish authorities to hold a meeting to take into consideration his agreement, which I have before mentioned. The tariff will probably be objected to, and perhaps there will be an expression of opinion as to the Divan, which does not appear to be popular, and the meeting will petition.

Mr. Moore and myself have impressed on Mr. Misk, the Emir Beshir's Secretary, and one or two influential persons, amongst them the Greek Archbishop Benjamin, the necessity of pointing out to the leading people of the Mountain the madness of allowing themselves to be seduced by the misrepresentations of false friends and agents, who were only acting for their own ends, to seek, as it would be, a collision with the Turkish Government, which had given proof of its wish to conciliate by reducing the taxation, and referring the matter to Constantinople for the consideration of the Sultan, whose benevolence and good will towards Syria, no one could doubt. That a recourse to arms, which we knew had been alluded to, would, besides indisposing those who felt the deepest interest in Syria,—an interest, of which they had given good earnest by exposing, for her sake, the finest fleet which had ever sailed in the Mediterranean to the chances of war, which if not altogether defeat the measures which were in progress for her welfare. I told Mr. Misk confidentially, that he might, as if from himself, bring to the notice of the chiefs of the people, that the Turks, without firing a shot or stirring from their strong towns, might reduce the Lebanon to a state of starvation, and that they had a formidable fleet, which would cruise along the coast, provision their own troops, and, at the same time, prevent supplies from reaching Lebanon. But there are other modes of suppressing revolt in this country, and which have been so frequently put into practice, that they probably would not be overlooked by the Turks. I allude to the facility which has at all times existed of exciting one part of the population against the other. So easy and so cheap a mode of quelling insurrection would have attractions for the Turks, whose army, if they were to attempt to take the field and leave the towns, would infallibly be defeated.

Selim Pasha, the Seraskier, who commands in Syria, was much surprised when the late General Michell expressed his opinion that it would not be prudent

to move a brigade of infantry against the same force of cavalry with eleven guns of horse-artillery in a plain. His only argument was that his troops were brave. A promise to the Druses to restore the almost sovereign power, which the Dablan tribe once possessed, to that powerful house, together with an assurance that the Druse States would be governed with a power which is now absorbed by the Divan, would at once range that warlike people as allies to the Sultan against the Maronites, with whom they are not connected either by religion or clanship; on the contrary, their relations have always been hostile. A still less price would purchase the aid of the Mutahis.

I do not think that there will be an armed outbreak, certainly not for the present; the Mountaineers will await the result of a reference of their complaints to the Sublime Porte, and the Maronites, on the other hand, will contribute the necessary support to the Government; and their conduct is not dissatisfactory. Their own impoverished state, as on the hopes which they found on the weakness of the Turkish Government and the promises of assistance from France.

In conclusion, I have the honour to state to your Lordship, that unless men be sent to this country, whose opinions will command respect in every way, and who will place the taxation on an equitable footing, with a due regard to the interests of the Sultan, the condition of the people, and the promises which have been made to them, I submit my most respectful opinion that unless such a measure be adopted, French influence will increase, and as a natural consequence, disorder and insurrection will prevail in Syria.

It is to be observed that in the formation of the camp at Djezzar last year, the French and Turkish troops caused considerable damage to the property of the Mountaineers, and I venture to suggest that if your Lordship were pleased to direct that an inquiry should be made into the loss sustained by the Mountaineers with a view to their indemnification, it would cause a general satisfaction, which would be desirable.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HUGH ROSE,
Colonel, commanding Her Majesty's
Detachments in Syria.

Inclosure 2 to No. 11.

Colonel Rose to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 45
My Lord,

Beyrout, May 28, 1841

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the meeting of the leading people of the Lebanon, which I mentioned in my dispatch of the 2nd instant, took place at Achnah, about 10 miles from Beyrout. There were present 80 persons, amongst them the principal Druse and Christian families of the Lebanon.

The Emir Beshir informed the assembly that he had exerted himself to the utmost to reduce the taxation which had been proposed by the Turkish Government, which, however, continued to demand the payment of the tariff and of 4,200 purses yearly from the Mountain. The Deputies declared their inability to pay the demands, and brought forward their claims for exemption from them, which were grounded on the promises made to them, their losses and suffering occasioned by the part which they had taken in favour of the Sultan. Bishop Tubia, a Maronite, complained of the tariff, and made a calculation by which he proved that on an oke of silk, worth 120 piastres, the seller would only gain 13 piastres, after paying the tariff and other expenses. He recommended that the tariff should not be levied in the country between Acre and Tripoli, and proposed that the meeting should address a petition to France, on which Archbishop Benjamin, of the Greek orthodox church, observed, "Why to France, France has nothing to do in this matter. We ought to address ourselves to England and the allied Powers." Bishop Tubia replied, that England had confirmed, put her seal on, "Natama," these demands of the Turkish Government. The Archbishop said that he had

ne vivons pas ni de commerce, ni des arts, ni d'aucune autre industrie, nous n'avons même des plaines où récolter nos grains, tout notre bien consiste dans l'agriculture la plus pénible, pour cultiver notre terrain (rocaillieux et la plus part stérile), pour y planter les mûriers pour en récolter la soie, principale branche de notre ressource, et ensuite quelque chose en huile.

Nous sommes ensuite forcés par nos nécessités indispensables à réaliser ces deux articles pour acheter des céréales pour notre subsistance, et dans ces transactions, comme votre Altesse pourra aisément relever, nous sommes forcés d'une part à vendre nos produits, souvent à vils prix, et de l'autre à acheter les grains à très haut prix; et par conséquent, les spéculateurs qui nous achètent la soie et l'huile voudront déduire du prix de ces articles les droits imposés par le tarif, et les vendeurs des grains voudront y charger les droits également. Mais nous venons d'expérimenter, dans nos transactions depuis l'établissement du nouveau tarif, que le cinquième de nos biens est pris: nous citerons un exemple que l'expérience vient de nous montrer, qu'en payant sur notre soie le 12 pour cent, et y ajouter 10 pour cent (qu'on nous prend à la douane), une ôke de soie paie 18 piastres pour être vendue à 120 piastres; et d'un autre côté, nous achetions, avant la mise en vigueur du tarif, avec une ôke de soie ou 120 piastres, dix rubés de blé, et dès que le tarif a existé, nous ne pouvons pas avoir que dix rubés de blé. Ce calcul que nous avons fait, avec le cinquième de notre bien qui est le 20 pour cent. En redoublant cette transaction nous payons 40 piastres pour une ôke de soie, et nous devons déduire aussi le tiers du produit de notre terrain pour les frais du soin des vers-à-soie qui est 26½ piastres par ôke. En redoublant encore une fois, nous ne restons qu'un produit net de chaque ôke de soie de 120 piastres—13½ piastres. Ce calcul que nous venons de tracer approximativement, ne nous laisse aucun doute que nous pourrions à peine vivre, et notre tranquillité est absolument annihilée. Outre les griefs du tarif qui précèdent, nous ne mentionnons ici les différents impôts qui nous avaient été exigés et qu'ensuite l'autorité à Beyrouth, qui ont voulu régler ces impôts en nous imposant une somme à payer à la trésorerie (qui serait divisée sur nous impartiallement) à la place de la dîme, "Yurk" (droit volontaire), et le "Kharadj". Cependant, nous prenons la liberté d'observer, que la dîme n'a jamais été imposée sur notre montagne, qui ne consiste qu'en rochers et peu de terrain stérile et rocaillieux, dont nous nous sommes imposés depuis une époque très reculée et il ne faut pas la considérer comme les autres plaines fertiles qui existent dans l'empire appartenant au Gouvernement, qui peut les imposer ce qui lui semble, tandis que cette montagne n'a payé qu'un simple "Mir" (tribut gouvernemental).

Quant au Yurk surdit, il est bien connu que l'insurrection du Mont Liban contre le Gouvernement Egyptien était principalement contre le Ferdé (imposition égale au Yurk) et les autres impositions tellement oppressives, unies à la conscription, qui nous étaient devenues insupportables, et nous nous sommes soulevés contre ce dernier Gouvernement; et confiant dans la bonté et la miséricorde de notre Souverain le Sultan, sur une telle occasion nous avons exposé notre sang dans les batailles, outre l'abus sur nos femmes d'avoir été dérobées et pillées, notre propriété dévastée, nos maisons brûlées, notre clergé déridé et massacré et notre culte religieux avili et injurié.

Quant au Kharadj (droit de capitation), ceci fut imposé aux Chrétiens dans l'Empire Ottoman, pour la protection de leur vie, honneur et propriété; mais, quant à nous, habitants du Liban, nous n'avons jamais dérangé le Gouvernement de la Sublime Porte pour notre garantie des susdites craintes, mais, au contraire, il a été inmanquablement notre usage de nous protéger des injures, et de nous défendre des paysans qui se portaient sur nous, et d'empêcher les habitants de ces dernières lorsqu'ils étaient dérobés aux ordres du Sultan, etc. Et par cette même raison, les Empereurs Ottomans n'ont jamais exigé ce droit de capitation de nous; et on peut facilement s'assurer de ce que nous avançons en se référant aux archives des affaires financières.

Si on prend en considération notre exposition et on persistait à nous aggraver de cette manière, qui nous est absolument insupportable et en quelques années ce système nous ruinerait, on ne pourra point nous reprocher, si nous nous rappellerons avec raison du dernier Gouvernement.

Nous venons donc à vous supplier d'implorer la clemence de la Sublime Porte, afin qu'elle nous regarde avec son œil de bienveillance et nous fasse avoir notre tranquillité, qui ne sera pas garantie qu'en nous exemptant du

droit du tarif totalement sur l'importation et l'exportation de nos produits, soie, har et les articles en céréales que nous importons pour notre subsistance dans les différents ports et villes de la Syrie. Et nous ne pouvons supporter aucune imposition excepté ce que nous payons au Sultan dans le temps passé.

Nous nous flattons toujours d'être indemnisés par la générosité de la Sublime Porte et son honneur impérial de nos services militaires, que nous avons exercés en faveur de sa cause avec un dévouement remarquable, en exposant notre sang et tout ce qui nous est cher, et que nous avons rempli sa volonté pour lui plaire; et jouir par conséquent de ses promesses formelles, dont nous avons été flattés par ses représentants et ceux des Puissances Alliées qui nous ont honorés, c'est-à-dire par son Excellence Selim Pacha, Mahomed Izzet Pacha, son Excellence l'Amiral Stopford, Commodore Napier et Mr R. Wood, verbalement et par écrit, en nous assurant de la manière la plus expresse, que nous serions quittes de toutes les impositions financières pour quelques années, et après certaine époque on ne nous exigera que le Mir que nous payons à la Sublime Porte.

Nous attendions également d'être indemnisés des pertes que nous avons souffertes dans le pillage et dégâts de nos propriétés depuis la première insurrection contre le Gouvernement Egyptien jusqu'à notre livraison, ainsi que ceux qui ont été faits par les troupes Turques par ordre supérieur, et nous étions assurés d'être payés du montant, qui, d'après l'estimation des experts nommés à cette époque par ordre supérieur pour prendre note de ces dégâts, de 400,000 tallars, et le délai qu'on a employé à nous rembourser cette somme nous cause des pertes nouvelles: et nous croyons qu'il est contraire à l'usage des Rois de ne pas indemniser leurs sujets de ces dommages qui ont été faits par leurs ordres en temps de guerre, conformément aux réglemens de justice, et en vertu de quoi nous prions que notre supplication soit écoutée. De cette manière nous continuerons à prier le Suprême d'éterniser la puissance de votre empire très sublime, et d'éclater votre gloire, Excellence, et prolonger votre bonheur.

(Signé) Vos Esclaves,
Habitans du Mont Liban en général
Noblesse Chrétienne du Mont Liban.
Noblesse Druse du Mont Liban.
Les Emirs en général du Mont Liban
Et plusieurs autres personnes distinguées
[Avec leurs cachets respectifs.]

No. 12.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby

No. 181.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 20, 1841

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatches Nos. 209 and 210, of the 21st and 22nd of June. The additional particulars contained in those despatches respecting the conduct of Nejjib Pasha of Damascus, have satisfied Her Majesty's Government that it is essential for the interests of the Porte that Nejjib Pasha should be removed from his Government, as he has shown himself in so many important respects wholly unfit to govern any part of Syria.

I have accordingly addressed to Cheikib Effendi a note to that effect, of which I inclose a copy for your information; and I have to instruct your Excellency to state to the Turkish Government that you are directed to urge the Porte to remove Nejjib Pasha from Syria.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

Viscount Palmerston to Cheik Effendi.

Foreign Office, July 20, 1841.

THE Undersigned, &c., has already had the honour on two occasions to request Cheik Effendi, &c., to call the attention of the Sublime Porte to the conduct of Nejb Pasha of Damascus, and he regrets extremely to be under the necessity of again addressing his Excellency on that subject.

But the accounts which Her Majesty's Government continue to receive of the conduct of that Pasha, and of the determination which he manifests to defeat all the efforts of the British officers now in Syria to promote the interests of the Sultan in that country, have convinced the British Government that it is essential for the interests of the Sublime Porte that Nejb Pasha should be removed from his Government: and the Undersigned has accordingly instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to represent strongly to the Porte the expediency of that measure, and he requests Cheik Effendi to convey to his Government a communication to the same effect.

The Undersigned, &c.,

(Signed) PALMERSTON

No. 13.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 183.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 20, 1841.

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the steps which you have taken about the affairs of Syria, and the recommendations which have been made to the Porte with your concurrence respecting those affairs, as reported in your despatch No. 205, of the 21st of June.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON

No. 14.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 30.)

(No. 234.)

My Lord,

Therapia, July 13, 1841.

BARON STURMER had the goodness to communicate to me the inclosed. I have had it copied, as it contains much that I think may be interesting to your Lordship.

The accounts I have received, independent of the consular reports which are forwarded to your Lordship, agree in stating the country to be at present in a state of great excitement. They also state the increasing efforts of the French to excite disturbances, and the evidence of their violent enmity against the English.

I have reason to doubt the reports of a great change having taken place in the feelings of the Syrian Christians for the English.

There can be no doubt of the critical and dangerous nature of the state of affairs in Syria, but I am certain nothing good can be done there whilst Nejb Pasha is permitted to govern the country, and whilst the Porte acts with equal timidity and stupidity with respect to the administration there. What the Porte has undertaken to grant, and which has been reported to your Lordship, will, I hope, suffice, provided execution be given to those arrangements; but delay of it will produce evil of great magnitude. I hope Mr. Wood may be of great service, and I will send him to Syria, but under present circumstances I have no doubt of Nejb's refusal to admit his public character, and Nejb will be technically in the right. If Mr. Wood had been appointed Consul-General, as I prayed he might be, there would have been no difficulty of this sort.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY

Baron Stürmer to Prince Metternich.

Constantinople, 14 Juillet, 1841.

AYANT attentivement examiné les rapports de la Syrie dont j'ai fait mention dans ma dernière expédition et qui vont jusqu'au 3 de ce mois, je suis à même de rendre compte à votre Altesse de l'état dans lequel se trouvait cette province, en attendant que les mesures prises dernièrement par la Porte produisent les effets salutaires qu'on est en droit d'en attendre.

La tranquillité du pays n'a pas encore été sérieusement troublée, quoique on ne puisse pas se dissimuler qu'elle est gravement compromise, tant par la cupidité et par l'esprit mutin et remuant des Bédouins et des Druses, que par les menées des agents Français, accusés de chercher à établir leur influence exclusive sur les habitants Chrétiens, en flattant les passions des partis, et en leur faisant concevoir la possibilité de parvenir à une indépendance plus ou moins absolue de la Porte, moyennant l'intervention de la France Chrétienne.

Il est vrai que les armées du Sultan ont eu du succès dans le Houran. Chiblé Arian, ayant attaqué les Bédouins qui avaient poussé leurs incursions jusqu'à Samaa et à Gouetra (à trois lieues d'Allemagne de Damas), les a repoussés et obligés à payer en bestiaux une indemnité pour les dommages qu'ils ont causés aux habitants des pays qu'ils parcouraient, et à promettre de rester tranquilles dans leurs déserts et de n'en sortir que pour paître leurs troupeaux, en payant les droits d'usage.

Cependant comme le Gouverneur de Damas, Néjb Pacha, déjà en butte à tous les partis, vient de finir par se mettre mal avec les troupes et les chefs qui les commandent, il se peut que si quelque nouvelle insurrection a lieu, elle ne sera plus si promptement et si vigoureusement repoussée comme l'a été celle dont il est fait mention plus haut; car tout porte à croire que le Pacha éprouvera quelques difficultés à se faire obéir par les troupes.

Le Liban est représenté comme n'ayant aucun administrateur, sous les administrés dont une partie désire le retour de l'ancien Emir, autre le rétablissement de l'autorité régularisée. Il a demandé de se réfugier dans une petite terre qu'il possède près de Beirut et d'être pas se joindre parmi les montagnards, de peur d'en être maltraité. Pour soutenir les frais de son gouvernement, il a demandé des appointements de 1,000,000 de piastres par an et 1,000,000 de piastres pour frais de gouvernement. En attendant, ne pouvant se soutenir par ses propres revenus, il a eu recours à un expédient qui, pour le moment, répondra au but qu'il se propose, mais qui sans doute finira par le ruiner; il a, dit-on, nommé pour son premier Kaysa le riche et influent Cheik Druse, Naaman Ghomblatt. Cet homme a toujours eu maintenu en haleine le Gouverneur du Liban. Avec lui, Bechir lui-même n'a jamais pu s'entendre avec lui, de sorte que pour se débarrasser il avait cherché à le faire proscrire par Méhémet Ali.

Cet état des choses devient bien plus grave par les menées des agents Français déjà mentionnés ci-dessus. Il paraît qu'ils emploient tous leurs moyens pour paralyser l'influence Anglaise. Leurs missionnaires se sont rapprochés des Maronites et entrent avec ceux-ci contre les Protestants: ils assurent que pendant que les autres Représentants s'efforçaient d'obtenir de la Porte quelque concession en faveur des Catholiques, c'est la France qui fit réellement de voter les firmans, que le Président du Conseil lui-même en a donné part à l'Empereur, et qu'en conséquence le Gouvernement Français qui a le droit d'intervenir en faveur de ce culte et de tous ceux qui le professent en Orient.

D'un autre côté, ils ne négligent pas l'ex-Emir Béchir. Il font comprendre à ce cher parti, que la France s'intéresse à son sort et que bientôt elle sera de retour. L'Emir lui-même fait tout ce qu'il peut pour accréditer cette promesse et pour pousser les vœux pour son rétablissement dans le Liban. Vers la fin du mois de Mai, ses biens ainsi que ceux de son épouse principallement Bechir, furent mis sous séquestre et sous une surveillance étroite, et l'ex-Emir et sa femme furent laissés en partant du Liban. Si ces mesures n'ont pas le résultat de leur but, elles ne tarderont pas à produire de graves conséquences. Les Français ont classé par leurs actes arbitraires de la part des chefs de tribus libanaises.

les cultes et de toutes les sectes réunis en conseil, qui doivent avoir été d'accord sur cette mesure extraordinaire.

Le Consul de France à Damas surtout se donne beaucoup de mouvement, et se préoccupe de tout ce qui se passe dans la ville. Il est surprenant de le voir traiter avec une déférence marquée l'agent qui n'a d'autre mission que celle de les protéger contre ses inclinations.

En attendant, ces pratiques démoralisent les populations; le désir d'être un moment plus tôt émancipées du joug Ottoman commence déjà à se manifester chez elles; on ne ménage plus les autorités chargées du maintien de l'ordre; on refuse les impôts; et on se déclare prêt à tout pour se défendre par les armes. Les hommes paisibles prévoient une conflagration vaste et meurtrière et en sont effrayés au point de déclarer qu'il sera désormais fort difficile de la prévenir.

Dans une pétition adressée par l'entremise du Séraskier de la Syrie, Selim Pacha, au Sultan, et Reza Pacha, au Grand Vizir, et par le Consul de France, pour transmettre à votre Altesse en-jointe une assez mauvaise traduction qui m'a été envoyée de Beyrouth, les rayas du Mont Liban tiennent un langage auquel la Porte n'avait pas été accoutumée de leur part. Ils y exposent leurs griefs non seulement avec franchise mais avec un ton de suffisance qui fait pressentir la résistance en cas de refus. Ils disent, entre autres, qu'après tant de promesses qu'ils seraient traités avec humanité et générosité, ils voient avec douleur arriver précisément le contraire; qu'au lieu d'une réduction des droits et des taxes, ils sont à présent obligés de payer des taxes plus élevées qu'il leur est impossible de les acquiescer, et qu'ils sont obligés de payer des taxes supplémentaires sur les produits de leur commerce, et qu'ils ont vu frapper les substances de droits équivalant à une prohibition. Ils demandent que les taxes soient réduites, et qu'ils soient exemptés pour l'importation et pour l'exportation; ils se flattent d'obtenir des récompenses encore plus amples pour leurs efforts dans la dernière lutte; ils en appellent aux promesses qui leur doivent avoir été faites à cette occasion par le Séraskier Ottoman et par l'Amiral Britannique, et ils finissent par dire qu'en vertu de ces promesses ils attendent avec confiance que le Sultan leur accorde l'exemption pour quelques années de toute espèce de taxes et de droits (sauf les taxes de consommation et foncières); qu'après l'époque de l'exemption, ils s'agissent d'autres impôts que de ceux qu'ils payaient auparavant à la Porte exclusivement. Ces pétitionnaires n'oublient pas qu'on leur avait promis une indemnité pour quelques milliers que l'on fit couper pour régier l'esplanade du camp de Djezzir, et ils demandent 400,000 talers de la Reine à titre de compensation due pour ces dégâts. Il est à espérer que les concessions que la Porte vient de faire aux Syriens, en statuant sur la plupart de ces demandes, calmeront les esprits. Mais s'il est vrai que quelques agents étrangers les poussent vers l'insubordination, ces concessions n'auront d'autre effet que celui de les rendre encore plus hardis et de les encourager à présenter de nouvelles pétitions plus irrévérentes que celle que je viens d'analyser.

Nous avons à Damas un enfant d'une année et demie, un enfant à un enfant Melquite, âgé de dix ans, sous des circonstances qui prouveraient qu'aucun enfant Chrétien n'est plus sûr de rester fidèle à la religion de ses pères. Cet agent me prie de solliciter auprès du Ministère Ottoman un ordre pontif, afin que les apostasies ne soient pas autorisées légèrement, et permises aux enfants qui ne sont pas censés être libres dans leurs actes civils. Cette matière est fort délicate. Faire des prosélytes est chez les Musulmans un acte de piété et de charité. Les abjurations d'enfants arrivent très souvent, et il en arrivait en Syrie du temps des Egyptiens sans que les réclamations en soient élevées. Cependant, si une réserve d'enfants est faite à Reza Pacha pour qu'il ne soit pas obligé de les laisser aller, à Nour Pacha qui, vu son caractère fanatique, ne manquerait pas de choquer les habitants Chrétiens, et si ces enfants sont fort nombreux et influents.

Agréer, &c.,
(Signé) STURMER.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(No. 194.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 9, 1841

I HAVE received from Colonel Rose a copy of his despatch to your Excellency of the 24th of June, respecting the refusal of the Musti of Beyrouth to admit the evidence of Christians against Mahometans; and I have in consequence, addressed to Chekib Effendi, the note, of which I inclose a copy I am, &c.,

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

Inclosure in No. 15

Viscount Palmerston to Chekib Effendi.

Foreign Office, August 9, 1841

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to transmit to Chekib Effendi, &c., the accompanying copy of a despatch from Colonel Rose, the Commanding officer of the British detachments in Syria, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, together with a copy of the letter therein referred to, which that officer, conjointly with Captain Waldegrave and Captain Pning of the British navy, and the British Consul at Beyrouth, addressed to the Séraskier Selim Pacha on the 25th of June, on the subject of the refusal of the Musti of Beyrouth to admit the evidence of Christians against Mussulmans.

The Undersigned requests Chekib Effendi to communicate these papers to the Séraskier Pacha, and to state to the Ottoman Ministers, that Her Majesty's Government cannot doubt that the enlightened sense of justice which directs the Councils of the Sultan, will lead His Highness, without a moment's delay, to take the necessary measures for preventing the Mustis in Syria from acting upon the obsolete and antiquated doctrine laid down by the Musti of Beyrouth.

The Sublime Porte will see from the statements contained in the letter from the British officers to Selim Pacha, what intolerable injuries might be committed upon the Christians by the Mahometans, if the doctrine laid down by the Musti of Beyrouth were to prevail, and the Porte, in its wisdom, must perceive that injuries of this kind would be resented by the Christians of Syria first, by acts of private vengeance against individual Mahometans, and at length by a general revolt, which would be against the authority of the Sultan; and it cannot be doubted that such a revolt, if provoked, would have the sympathy of all the nations of Europe; and it would, in all probability, meet with active and effectual assistance from many quarters.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON

No 16

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby

(No. 195.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 9, 1841

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a further note which I have addressed to Chekib Effendi, in consequence of the accounts which I continue to receive from Colonel Rose of the oppressions practised by the Mahometans upon the Christians in Syria.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Viscount Palmerston to Chekib Effendi.

Foreign Office, August 9, 1841.

THE Undersigned, &c., regrets extremely to have to state to Chekib Effendi, &c., that Her Majesty's Government continue to receive reports of

the tyrannical proceedings of the Mussulmans towards the Christians in Syria, and of the inability, or unwillingness of the Ottoman Authorities in that country, to preserve order, or to secure the Christians from oppression.

The Undersigned feels it incumbent upon him again to request Chekib Effendi strongly to impress upon the Sublime Porte, that if the Sultan does not take effectual measures for protecting his Christian subjects from oppression arising from religious bigotry and from the fanaticism of the Mussulmans, or from obsolete notions that the Turks ought to enjoy as a political privilege the right of oppressing their Christian fellow subjects, consequences of the most serious nature to the Turkish Empire will inevitably follow.

But the Sultan has, ever since he ascended the throne, given so many and such indubitable proofs of his fixed determination to protect equally all classes of his subjects, and to see that equal and impartial justice is done to all, that Her Majesty's Government are persuaded that when the Sultan learns how all his paternal intentions are carried into execution by some of the persons whom he has placed in authority in his provinces, he will take the most prompt and effectual measures to cause his benevolent will to be more strictly obeyed.

The Undersigned, &c.,

(Signed) PALMERSTON

No. 17

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 240.)

My Lord,

Therapia, July 18, 1841

I MADE known to Rifaat Pasha that I was acquainted with your Lordship's letter to Chelik Effendi upon the subject of Nejjib Pasha.

His Excellency sent me word that the Sublime Porte had already sent the most precise orders to Nejib Pasha to avoid giving any cause whatever for dissatisfaction to the Syrians, adding, that if he failed in any degree whatever to obey those orders, he should be instantly removed from his post. I replied, that a man like Nejib Pasha would not alter his conduct.

I have, &c.

(Signed) **PONSONBY**

No. 18

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 248.)

My Lord,

Thetaria, July 27, 1961.

I HAVE reported the refusal of the Porte to give a berth to Mr. Wood as Consul at Damascus, that being a holy city, and also I have stated the facts respecting the circumstances of the permission given to Mr. Farrer to reside there as Consul-General.

I have now to say that I have asked for a vicarial letter for Mr. Wood, by which he will be authorized to reside at Damascus, and to take charge of the archives, &c., &c., and that I have been desirous of Mr. Wood's proceeding to Syria, where his presence might be eminently useful in consequence of the great number of promises made here, and because Rifaat Pasha has expressed his wishes that he should go back; but I have had information from Syria showing that not one of the promises made by the Sublime Porte of which Mr Wood was the bearer, authorized by the Porte and by me, has been performed by the Ottoman Authorities in Syria, but that on the contrary, the Authority lately sent there, viz., the Defterdar, has denied the existence of some of those promises, although those promises have been avowed by Selim Pasha; and I have further learnt that the greatest dissension exists amongst the Mountaineers and others in consequence of the non-execution of the promises generally, of which Mr. Wood was the bearer. I have in consequence thought it right to detain here, Mr. Wood, knowing

that his return to Syria must be very mischievous in its effects under such circumstances, for the Syrians would demand from him, why his promises are not performed, and Mr. Wood must either allow the Syrians to hold him a liar and deceiver, and to charge the British Ambassador and even Her Majesty's Government with deceit and falsehood, or Mr. Wood must declare that the Porte is guilty of breaking its promises, and by so doing there would be an end put to the respite from mischief that has been obtained by the suspense in which the Syrians have been still held and the hopes they have still nourished that we here should succeed in obtaining for them what had been promised to them.

I thought it right to give the Ottoman Ministers credit for their repeated declarations that Nejjib Pasha and the other functionaries in Syria should be obliged to act in conformity with the spirit and letter of the promises of the Sublime Porte, but, day after day, week after week, months have passed away, and nothing has been done. I have therefore given in to the Sublime Porte an official note, pointing out the evils that would ensue from the return of Mr. Wood to Syria, and further stating that not one of the arrangements agreed upon at the meeting held by the Intermuncio and the Russian Minister and myself, and which were communicated to the Sublime Porte and accepted by the Porte, had as yet been acted upon, and terminating with the request that the Sublime Porte will give me a clear and satisfactory answer.

I feel sure I was right in hitherto abstaining from official acts, but that the time is now come when it is proper to resort to them and to follow up the efforts of peace by measures of war everywhere and at all times. Mehemet Ali may be seen in every quarter aided by the partizans of the French, — and at the object of both being, to prove that Syria cannot be governed by the Porte, another object of both being to give to Mehemet Ali by a regular and proper title — to which they aimed at obtaining for him by arms; and I shall not be surprized if success attends them. Mehemet Ali's coffers are full, for he is nearly the sole proprietor of the soil of Egypt, and he has abilities just fitted to know that money is power in this country. It is said that he desires that his son Said Bey should marry a sister of the Sultan; it is said that desire is countenanced by the French; and it is little to be doubted that such an alliance would tend to operate changes in the situation of affairs in this country which might lead to the destruction of the Ottoman Dynasty and the mischiefs that must attend upon such an event.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PONSOMBY.

Na 19

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 20.)

No. 2503

My Lord,

Thetane, July 28, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to inclose M. Pisani's report of his Excellency
Rufat Pasha's reply to my official note referred to in my despatch No. 248.

I have, &c

(Signed) **PONSONBY.**

Inclosure in No. 19.

M. PUGH to Viscount Ponsonby

My Lord,

Pers., July 28, 1941.

RIFAAT PASHA informs me that your Excellency's note about the promises made by the Porte has been duly read and discussed in the Council yesterday. His Excellency spoke in the most energetic terms in support of its interest. The result is, that they will send again by Teyar Pasha, who will leave this for Syria at the end of this week, most positive orders to Edhem Bey, the Defterdar of Acre, to reward, without any further delay, those persons who

are known to have served the Sultan's just cause, and to indemnify those whose mulberries have been cut for carrying on the military operations. I asked for a copy of the orders that are to be sent to Acre.

The Sultan has been pleased to grant a diminution of 10,000,000 in the Egyptian tribute. The Porte had declared to Said Bey, that the tribute having been fixed at 40,000,000 of piastres (Turkish currency), they could not enter into a negotiation for the purpose of making new arrangements about it, and that he, Said Bey, might, however, apply directly to the Sultan for a diminution. In fact, Said Bey spoke on this point to the Sultan, on the occasion of his audience, and the Sultan has graciously granted Mehmet Ali's demand, and declared that he will be satisfied with 30,000,000. Said Bey has thanked the Porte for this new act of generosity on the part of the Sultan. The Porte said to Said Bey that, their advice to apply to His Imperial Majesty has proved very beneficial to Mehmet Ali Pasha, for they do not think they could go so far as to fix the tribute to less than 35,000,000. A new definitive firman is going to be written, fixing invariably the tribute to 30,000,000 piastres (30,000,000).

I have, &c.,
(Signed) FRED PISANI.

No 20

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 18.)

(No. 262.)

My Lord,

Therapia, July 31, 1841.

I HAVE received the letter from you that the Sultan has declared to Said Bey, that the tribute having been fixed at 40,000,000 of piastres (Turkish currency), they could not enter into a negotiation for the purpose of making new arrangements about it, and that he, Said Bey, might, however, apply directly to the Sultan for a diminution. In fact, Said Bey spoke on this point to the Sultan, on the occasion of his audience, and the Sultan has graciously granted Mehmet Ali's demand, and declared that he will be satisfied with 30,000,000. Said Bey has thanked the Porte for this new act of generosity on the part of the Sultan. The Porte said to Said Bey that, their advice to apply to His Imperial Majesty has proved very beneficial to Mehmet Ali Pasha, for they do not think they could go so far as to fix the tribute to less than 35,000,000. A new definitive firman is going to be written, fixing invariably the tribute to 30,000,000 piastres (30,000,000).

I think it better to delay Mr. Wood here till I see some result in proof of the execution of the above promises. I am of opinion that they will be substantially performed, and I expect that Nejb will be recalled ere long; the Porte seems to wish to be allowed to save appearances with respect to him, and I see no reason for forcing the Porte, if what we desire be done, at tranquillity ensured in Syria.

I enclose copy of a letter from Syria, dated 5th July, addressed to Mr Wood, in which your Lordship will find some particulars worth reading.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY

Inclosure in No. 20

Extract of a Letter from Syria, addressed to Mr Wood.

Monsieur,

Le 5 Juillet 1841

A L'ARRIVEE de M Hanna Misk, il a remis les lettres pour diverses personnes sur les dégâts de Djouni et sur ceux qui ont rendu des services, et je me suis rendu avec Hanna chez le Patriarche pour lui remettre vos lettres, qui ont paru très satisfaisantes. Nous avons causé sur plusieurs points, le principal est le Tarif (que le Consul de France a demandé au Sultan de lui faire accepter pour les montagnards).

Il a fait des démarches à Misk sur l'état des affaires à Constantinople; il a montré un grand désir de vous voir bientôt; il a fait appeler les personnes qui avaient à être récompensées et à ceux dont les muriers ont été coupés, et les a engagés de se rendre à Beyrouth chez le Defterdar pour réclamation pour être payés. Nous primes congé de lui et nous nous rendîmes à Gaza chez l'Emir Abdallah, qui nous a montré beaucoup d'amitié pour vous.

Lorsque ces pauvres propriétaires des muriers endommagés à Djouni ont présenté leur pétition au Defterdar, il leur a répondu: "Je n'en sais rien". Vous concevez bien qu'une telle réponse étonna beaucoup ces gens, qui de suite lui firent voir la lettre que vous

leur aviez écrite sur ce sujet, et son Excellence répondit que vous étiez trompé sur ce sujet.

De suite Padre Arsenio Romano et plusieurs autres vinrent chez moi et me représentèrent l'affaire. Je crus de mon devoir de me rendre de suite auprès du Defterdar, où Selim Pacha et le Moutéchar se trouvaient aussi. Le Père Rillo arriva aussi en même temps que moi, et commença par lui faire rappeler tout ce qu'il avait dit à ces montagnards. Le Defterdar ma le fit en disant que l'interprète l'avait mal expliqué. Le Père Rillo lui répondit qu'il se trouvait chez le Patriarche lorsque ces gens arrivèrent et représentèrent le fait et les paroles, et que le Patriarche s'était fâché; qu'il l'avait engagé de se rendre auprès de leurs Excellences pour connaître la cause pour laquelle on ne veut pas payer ces dommages, et de dire que si leurs Excellences donneraient la même réponse au Père Rillo, que le Patriarche enverrait deux délégués à Constantinople pour vous représenter l'affaire et la mettre sous les yeux de la Sublime Porte. Je fis observer au Defterdar que si vous n'étiez pas sûr que la Sublime Porte aurait ordonné de payer ces dégâts et récompenser ceux qui ont rendu des services, vous n'auriez pas averti ces Messieurs. Le Defterdar parmi autres observations, a dit "Mr. Wood est shérif elh, ferza da," ("Mr. Wood a fait de bonnes choses mais de mauvaises aussi."); alors je dis à leurs Excellences qu'on voit qu'elles veulent que les habitants perdent l'estime qu'ils ont pour vous, et que tout cela provient du Moutéchar qui voit que son rappel est venu après coup. Les deux Excellences ont répondu qu'ils ne pouvaient rien faire à ce sujet, et que tout cela provient du Moutéchar qui voit que son rappel est venu après coup. Les deux Excellences ont répondu qu'ils ne pouvaient rien faire à ce sujet, et que tout cela provient du Moutéchar qui voit que son rappel est venu après coup.

Hier Son Excellence Selim Pacha me fit appeler et après plusieurs paroles il m'a dit qu'il avait reçu des ordres de la Sublime Porte de retirer toutes les commissions sur ceux qui ont servi, et des dommages, pour les envoyer à Constantinople, et que de suite on les payerait. Je fis observer alors à Son Excellence que vous êtes son ami, et qu'il vous connaissait pour savoir que si vous n'étiez pas sûr de votre fait vous n'iriez pas vous compromettre devant tous les habitants du Mont Liban. Alors son Excellence me dit qu'elle avait reçu de l'argent par le Defterdar, mais qu'elle l'avait destiné à payer deux mois aux soldats, et que je ne devais pas faire attention à ce que le Defterdar nous avait dit; que la Sublime Porte connaît les services que vous lui avez rendus, et que lui sait très bien les apprécier.

Avant hier est arrivé ici le brick de guerre Autrichien le "M. C. C. C." conduisant Mr Stoudl et Mr Wickerhous, avec un officier Autrichien porteur du sabre pour Selim Pacha, ainsi qu'un million de piastres pour les pauvres et les couvens, une croix pour le Patriarche, des lettres pour le Père Rillo. Hier on a reçu aussi une lettre de l'Emir Béchir, qui nous a dit qu'il avait écrit au Sultan pour lui faire accepter le Tarif pour les montagnards. Le Patriarche a aussi écrit au Sultan pour lui faire accepter le Tarif pour les montagnards.

Il y a un avis qu'au mois de Juillet les bâtimens de guerre Français devant arriver, celui qui voudrait prendre sur lui pour faire les provisions sur la viande, vin, farine, &c. doit déposer au Consulat de France 40,000 piastres. Il y a un brick et une corvette, voyons si d'autres arriveront, et si le bruit qu'il avait fait courir que la flotte arriverait pour aider les montagnards à ne pas accepter aucune taxe du Gouvernement, est vrai.

Emir Emin Raslan se trouve ici à Beyrouth plus d'un mois, il intrigue jour et nuit avec les autorités, j'en ai prévenu le Séraskier, qui m'a répondu qu'il n'avait pas le cas. Cet Emir Emin Raslan est l'ami intime de Chik Naama qui se trouve aussi ici avec lui. Emir Hamar est venu depuis vingt jours et a été présenté au Séraskier par Mr Moore, et recommandé à son Excellence pour le faire l'aide-de-camp de l'Emir Béchir. L'Emir Béchir est un homme très dépendant pas de lui et qu'il fallait pour la Syrie. Les deux Excellences sont très liés avec l'Emir Béchir qui est venu ici en ville très souvent pour s'entretenir avec eux et les autorités, mais jusqu'à ce jour rien n'a été décidé ou banni.

Avant hier l'Emir Béchir a été appelé par le Defterdar, et une cinquantaine de ces Emirs sont venus avec lui; mais on n'a pas pu venir à un arrangement. Ils répondent toujours que le tarif était très fort.

Le conseil de Beyrouth, présidé par le Mutsellun, Mousli et Cadi, devrait être

changé, car, comme je vous l'avais écrit, beaucoup de friponneries se commettent.

Il faudrait venir avec des pleins pouvoirs, car vous êtes attendu avec les bras ouverts, &c. (Signé) TIMONI

No. 21.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby

(No. 215.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 19, 1841.

WITH reference to the letter from Syria to Mr. Wood, of which extracts are inclosed in your despatch of the 31st of July, I have to observe to your Excellency that the letter in question is evidently written by some person in the Catholic and Maronite interest, and opposed to the Druses.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON

No. 22.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 26.)

(No. 265.)

My Lord,

Therapia, August 3, 1841.

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch from the Grand Vizier to Hadji Edhem Bey, Defender of Acre, dated the 29th July, and sent from hence to Syria, the 30th July.

This despatch is the consequence of an official note from me to the Sublime Porte, containing complaints that the promises of the Porte had not been performed in Syria. I hope the orders given by the Grand Vizier may be productive of good.

I have received, by the last vessel from Syria, new complaints, made by some of the British officers in that country, which I will immediately bring under the cognizance of the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY

Inclosure in No. 22

The Grand Vizier to Hadji Edhem Bey

(Translation.)

Le 29 Juillet, 1841.

Il a été dit dans une note présentée par son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, Lord Ponsonby, au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, que les promesses faites par la Sublime Porte de récompenser quelques sujets fidèles parmi les Syriens, qui se sont empressés de rendre des services utiles, et d'indemniser les propriétaires des mûriers qu'on a coupés pour former un camp retranché à Djezzir, n'ont pas été remplies, et par conséquent, votre Excellence a répondu qu'elle n'avait pas des instructions à ces égards.

Or, vous savez qu'on vous a remis une liste des gens qu'il faut récompenser, et que lorsque vous allez partir d'ici, même dans un Conseil de Ministres auquel vous avez assisté, on vous a très fortement recommandé de donner ces récompenses conformément à la liste qui vous avait été remise, de payer la valeur des mûriers coupés, et de prendre des mesures sur les taxes, et d'avoir soin que l'administration du pays se fasse suivant des principes sages et équitables. Voilà dans quel sens étaient conçues les instructions qu'on vous a données.

En conséquence, nous nous attendions tous que, serviteur éclairé de la Sublime Porte, doué de prudence et de sagesse, et connaissant la délicatesse des circonstances actuelles, vous auriez mis tout votre zèle à arranger toutes ces affaires, mais que, poussé par votre zèle naturel, vous auriez pu en faire plus de services que les autres employés du Gouvernement dans ces pays.

Nous avons donc lieu de nous étonner lorsque nous apprenons que vous feignez de n'avoir pas des instructions sur les affaires dont on vient de parler, et que nous voyons que vous ne nous écrivez rien, tandis que les Ambassadeurs ne cessent de recevoir des lettres de Beyrouth; ce qui fait que nous ne pouvons pas donner une réponse satisfaisante aux représentations qu'on nous fait sur des points aussi importants de la Sublime Porte, et en très grand intérêt. C'est pourquoi il est devenu nécessaire que nous vous donnions de nouveaux ordres à tous ces égards, en vous transmettant, en même temps, copie de la note de M. l'Ambassadeur Anglais, afin que vous preniez connaissance des faits dont il s'agit.

Il importe beaucoup que les indemnités soient faites sans le moindre délai, et il est de la dignité de la Sublime Porte, que les Nischans, les gratifications en argent, et les autres espèces de récompenses soient donnés un moment plus tôt. Ainsi, nous faisons confectionner les deux Nischans qui ont été recommandés et que nous vous enverrons afin que vous les donniez vous-même, vous donnerez les gratifications à ceux qu'il faut, conformément à la liste qui en a été faite; vous payerez la valeur des arbres dont il a été parlé plus haut, et enfin, vous ferez tout ce qui est nécessaire afin que ces affaires, ainsi que toutes les autres affaires qui vous ont été recommandées, soient arrangées; et vous nous informerez, sans perte de temps, de ce que vous aurez fait.

Quant aux taxes, les Druses demandent à en être exemptés pendant l'espace de trois ans; mais ils ont déjà été exemptés du Ferdé, et d'autres impôts vexatoires. Il se trouve seulement d'après ce que nous apprenons, que Son Excellence Selim Pacha, ci devant Mouchir de Saïda, a parlé aux habitants d'un à deux villages situés aux environs de Beyrouth, de quelques concessions à leur être faites de la part de Sa Hautesse. Voyez donc ce qu'il en est, et écrivez nous là-dessus. Et comme en cas que vous et les autres autorités agissiez avec lenteur, les affaires se compliqueront de plus en plus, vous devez vous tenir constamment au courant de ce qui se passe, afin que vous ayez de nouvelles instructions sur chaque point.

Le Férîq de Jérusalem, son Excellence Tayar Pacha, qui part pour se rendre à sa destination, est chargé de vous transmettre les ordres nécessaires sur toutes les affaires dont il s'agit. Enfin, vous mettrez tout votre zèle à arranger ces affaires, à nous écrire sans interruption sur tout ce qui se passe, et à ce que le pays soit bien administré, et vous ne devez jamais perdre de vue qu'il faut que vous mettiez toute votre sollicitude à assurer aux populations la jouissance de cette protection dont la Sublime Porte veut qu'elles jouissent, en évitant tout ce qui peut troubler leur repos et donner lieu à un mécontentement populaire; et c'est à ces fins que cette dépêche a été écrite expressément.

Le 11 Dyemazul Akhîr, 1257.

No. 23

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby

(No. 224.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 26, 1841.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatches to No. 265 inclusive.

I have to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have been with great satisfaction by your Excellency's despatch, No. 265, of the 3rd of August, that the Grand Vizier has sent strict orders to the Turkish authorities in Syria to fulfil the promises made to the Syrians at the commencement of the rising against the authority of Mehemet Ali last year; and I have to acquaint your Excellency, that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the measures which your Excellency has taken, and proposes still to take, to ensure the faithful execution of those promises by the Porte.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 269.)

My Lord,

Therapia, August 11, 1841.

I INCLOSE a brief memorandum of what has been obtained from the Sublime Porte for the Syrians. I caused it to be prepared by Mr. Wood, to be communicated to his Excellency the Internuncio, which was done yesterday, when I had a long interview with him, at which Mr. Wood was present.

His Excellency approved of all that had been done, and said that the interests and objects of the Austrian and English Governments were identical upon the subject of Syria, and that their agents would act together with the most perfect cordiality. His Excellency expressed his wishes that Mr. Wood should succeed in Syria as soon as possible, and that he would be well received and his knowledge of the people would be required. His Excellency spoke as in strong, and handsome, and merited terms of commendation of the services already rendered by Mr. Wood.

The Sublime Porte desires to give Mr. Wood power to a certain extent to superintend the conduct of the Ottoman authorities in the performance of the orders of the Porte relating to the arrangements in Syria, intended to satisfy the wants of the Syrians of all denominations. I consider it my duty to empower Mr. Wood to act in pursuance of the wishes of the Porte in that matter. I will direct him to avoid with care interfering with any part of the Consular duties of the Consuls in Syria. I have already spoken to Mr. Wood on that point, and I know that he would very much regret receiving orders to act in any way that would oblige him to interfere with his colleagues.

I shall have the honour to write fully upon the subject of Syria by the first messenger, and I beg that what I now transmit may be considered as nothing more than a sketch.

There remains to be settled with the Porte an important question relating to the amount of the duty on silk, connected with other matters of fiscal nature. The Porte has been deceived upon the subject by its agents, but I hope we shall be able to settle the business satisfactorily by making the true facts known to the Porte.

I propose that Mr. Wood should leave this for Syria in ten or twelve days.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY

Inclosure in No. 24

Memorandum of what has been obtained of the Sublime Porte for the Syrians.

AT a conference of their Excellencies the Viscount Ponsonby, Baron de Sürmer, and M. de Titow, it was agreed upon, that the five following proposals should be made to the Sublime Porte in favour of the Syrians:

1. The remission of all illegal taxes and imposts.
2. The appointment of a Ferik to reside at Jerusalem for the special protection of the Christians, and the issue of firmans to the Governors to respect the rites and religious ceremonies of the various sects that inhabit Syria, as well as permission to repair and construct their churches, after the usual formalities have been observed, and a positive prohibition to the officers to accept or extort any money beyond the service by the laws of the country.

3. That the Emir Beshir and the Maronite Patriarch should each have a Kapou Kaja to enable them to communicate direct with the Porte.

4. That the Syrians who rendered services during the war should be rewarded.

5. That the proprietors of the plantations destroyed at Djoun by the allied forces should be indemnified for their losses.

The Undersigned has obtained besides,—

6. The dismissal of the Civil Governor of Gaza, who was obnoxious to the people on account of his vexations during the Egyptian rule.

7. The dismissal of Sheik Abdul Hadi, appointed Muhassil of the district of Gaza, Nablous, and Ramla, by Nejib Pasha, who was also obnoxious to the people, and a traitor to his sovereign.

8. An order for the Desterdar of Saids to abolish the monopoly of provisions established by the late Musteshar.

9. An order to Selim Pasha to desist from searching the tezkerahs of those who entered or left the towns, and from levying a piastre or thirty paras from each.

10. A promise that a custom-house officer should accompany the Undersigned to regulate the custom-houses of Syria.

11. Strict injunctions to Nejib Pasha and to the Desterdar of Damascus not to interfere henceforth with the costume of the Christians, and to allow them to ride on horseback, according to their custom.

12. That the Miri, including the Haradj, the Djizrye, and other taxes, to be paid by the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, shall not exceed the sum of 3,500 purses, and that the expenses of the administration, (also not exceeding 2,200 purses,) shall be deducted from the Miri.

13. The confirmation of the Emirs Effendi Said-ed-deen and Khangiar, in their respective Governments of Rasheya, Hasbeya, and Balbek.

14. The rejection by the Sublime Porte, of the proposal of Jousaouf Pasha and the Musteshar, that the district of Djebail should be separated from Mount Lebanon, and added to the Pashalic of Tripoli.

15. The rejection also, for the present, of the proposal of the Musteshar Effendi to divide the Government of Mount Lebanon between the Emir Beshir and the Druse Sheik Naaman, of the house of Djablath, to prevent a civil war between the Maronites and Druses.

16. The Porte's assent to the request of the Maronites, that the ex-Emir Beshir shall not be allowed to return to Mount Lebanon.

17. The immediate recall of the late Musteshar.

18. Fresh and positive instructions to Nejib Pasha to change his conduct towards the people, and to exert himself to give general satisfaction.

19. A firman to the Emir Beshir, confirming him in his Government of Mount Lebanon.

20. A vizual letter to the Maronite Patriarch announcing to him the good disposition of the Sublime Porte towards the Syrians.

21. A Nishan Iftihar for the Emir and the Patriarch.

22. Permission from the Sublime Porte to the Undersigned, on his return to Syria, to see that these proposed arrangements and instructions be carried into effect by its officers, and to report thereon.

(Signed) R. WOOD.

Pera, August 9, 1841.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 20.)

(No. 277.)

My Lord,

Therapia, September 2, 1841

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two despatches from Nejib Pasha to the Grand Vizier communicated to me by the Porte.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY

(Traduction.)

Le 12 Juillet, 1841.

J'ai reçu respectueusement une lettre de réprimande que votre Altesse m'a écrite pour me dire que les Consuls des Grandes Puissances lui ont fait savoir que moi et les personnes attachées à mon service recevons des chevaux et autres objets de cette espèce en cadeaux, et de l'argent avec lequel nous nous laissons corrompre; et par laquelle votre Altesse ordonne que des choses semblables n'arrivent point.

Votre Altesse n'a pas besoin que je rappelle à son souvenir que j'ai occupé pendant longtemps les fonctions de Ministre de votre Altesse, et que j'ai rempli l'espace de sept ou huit ans les fonctions de Ministre de Justice. En ce temps là lorsqu'un code pénal n'existait pas, et lorsque c'était pour moi de décider de la vie ou de la mort de quelques personnes, je ne me suis jamais permis de pareils procédés, et comment oserai-je m'y livrer à présent qu'un code pénal existe, quand même je serais très sujet à la corruption.

Ainsi que j'en ai donné tous les détails à votre Altesse dans les représentations que j'ai faites au Pacha de Damas, le Consul d'Angleterre à Damas avait déjà commencé plusieurs mois avant mon arrivée ici à s'ingérer abusivement dans les affaires du pays et des habitants, en parlant de vouloir avoir l'inspection sur la tranquillité publique et sur le bien être du pays, et à s'immiscer dans chaque affaire. Il attire chez lui un tas de gens avec lesquels il lie amitié. Il promet à l'un de le faire envoyer à un tel district comme Directeur de la Police, à l'autre à un tel autre district comme Surintendant des finances; à celui-ci et à celui-là de faire terminer leurs affaires, &c.

Voulant mettre fin à cette manie de vouloir se mêler de tout, j'accorde et favorise celles des affaires représentées par le Consul qui peuvent être favorisées et accordées, et je rejette les autres, ce qui le fâche; et quoiqu'il n'ait rien à dire, il ne manquera pas sans doute d'écrire à Constantinople de la manière qu'il l'a déjà fait. Il égare les esprits en disant aux uns et aux autres: "Ces gens vous feront regretter le Pacha d'Egypte, il y aura ceci, il y aura cela!" S'il fallait accorder toutes les demandes du Consul il est clair qu'il m'en aurait de très grandes obligations, mais c'est parce que je ne saurais accorder toutes ses demandes, qu'il me enlève de mille manières.

Les Ministres Etrangers à Constantinople, se fondant sur les rapports de leurs Consuls, qui leur avait représenté que les Albanais entraient de force dans les maisons à Beyrouth, et qu'il n'y avait pas sortes d'excès que les troupes Albanaises n'eussent pas commis, et que ayant demandé si c'était là la protection promise aux populations qui ne faisaient que rentrer sous l'autorité de la Porte, ont porté des plaintes très sérieuses à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

En conséquence, feu Hussein Pacha, Ferni, qui a été envoyé en Syrie avec les troupes, a reçu l'ordre de faire cesser ces bruits qui couraient sur le compte des Albanais, et de les renvoyer à leur patrie. Arrivé à Beyrouth, Hussein Pacha a appris des Consuls mêmes que ces bruits étaient tout-à-fait dénués de fondement, et que c'était une pure calomnie. Les Consuls ont été jusqu'à m'écrire des lettres pour me faire signer une signature, comme votre Altesse le sait fort bien. Leur but en faisant les Albanais de mille excès était de faire en sorte que ces troupes, qui avaient autrefois inspiré de la terreur aux habitants du Mont Liban, ne soient plus envoyées et employées ici; et c'est ce que j'ai vérifié moi-même de gens bien informés lorsque j'étais à Beyrouth.

A mon arrivée à Damas, quelques notables du pays et quelques Cheiks Arabes et chrétiens ont déclaré qu'ils n'entendaient par là que donner une preuve de leur soumission et de leur dévouement à la Sublime Porte, tel était leur usage d'après ce qu'ils nous ont assuré. Or, considérant que malgré toutes nos difficultés à les recevoir, si nous persistions à les refuser

ce serait leur faire un affront, nous avons été obligés de les accepter pour ne pas leur faire de la peine. Je dois ajouter, que tant le Desterdar que moi-même nous avons donné en retour à ceux qui nous ont offert des chevaux, des chèvres, des sabres, des montres, des pipes, et autres objets semblables dont la valeur égalait et peut-être même dépassait celle des chevaux. J'ai déjà donné tous les détails de cette affaire à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, ainsi votre Excellence doit être parfaitement au fait de tout cela. J'avais même commencé par dire qu'à mon arrivée à Beyrouth, l'Emir Handjar m'a fait présent d'un cheval que j'ai accepté. L'Emir est entré dans la ville et a fait sa soumission à la Sublime Porte avec une affaire de vingt à trente cavaliers; et les Consuls m'ayant représenté que cet Emir s'est battu dans plusieurs endroits avec les troupes d'Ibrahim Pacha qu'il a vaincues, et m'ayant prié de le nommer Mutselim de Balbek, je lui ai donné un diplôme qui l'a constitué tel. Quelques jours après il a apporté un cheval à moi et un cheval au Desterdar. Nous avons fait l'impossible pour ne pas les recevoir; mais il est venu lui-même, et il nous a dit: "Messieurs, si vous n'acceptez pas ces chevaux je ne pourrai pas, je ne dis pas aller à Balbek, mais pas même me rendre dans ma propre armée, c'est me tuer ainsi je vous prie de les accepter." L'Emir ayant insisté que nous acceptassions les chevaux, nous avons dû céder à ses instances. Mais nous lui avons donné en retour un sabre de la valeur de 1500 piastres.

Mon prédécesseur, Hagi Ali Pacha, et Zekeria Pacha, et Selim Pacha, m'ont envoyé aussi chacun deux chevaux que j'étais obligé d'accepter, mais pour lesquels j'ai donné sous les auspices de votre Altesse un juste équivalent.

Lorsque j'ai donné l'investiture ainsi qu'il fallait le faire, à quelques individus qui ont été nommés Moudirs (Directeurs ou Surintendants) dans les districts de ces environs, ils ont chacun d'eux donné à mes domestiques cent ou tout au plus cent cinquante piastres de bonne main. Voilà tout ce qui a été reçu en chevaux et en argent, et ni moi ni le Desterdar ni nos gens n'avons pris jusqu'à présent soit à titre de frais de bayouruldi, soit à tel autre titre que ce soit, et sous aucun prétexte, pas même un obole.

Je prends Dieu en témoin que ce que je dis est vrai. Jamais je ne me daignerais.

Substance of a Speech of Neyib Pasha to the Chiefs of the four nations.

Messieurs,

C'EST, comme vous le savez tous, la volonté de la Sublime Porte et de Sa Majesté Impériale, non bienfaiteurs, que conformément aux réglemens salutaires (la réforme) qui sont basés sur les meilleures institutions, l'on assure le repos et la tranquillité de tous les sujets de la Sublime Porte.

En conséquence, j'ai depuis mon arrivée à Damas, commencé à faire et je fais encore tous mes efforts à prendre des mesures propres à assurer le repos et la tranquillité des habitants Musulmans et Rayas. Et tout d'abord, j'ai supprimé les taxes excessives établies depuis peu, je recouvre ce qui revient aux tribus, j'ai posé par la réforme et puis je mets tout mon zèle et toute mon activité à établir la sûreté des routes en faisant cesser partout le mal que font aux villages et aux habitants des brigands parmi les Arabes du désert; et troisièmement, j'ai soin de respecter la propriété et l'honneur de toutes les nations établies dans la province dont le gouvernement m'est confié, sans distinction entre Musulmans et Rayas. Telle est ma conduite, évidemment conforme à la volonté et aux sentiments pleins d'humanité de Sa Hauteur, et en vous l'exposant, j'exige que vous tous qui êtes réunis ici, grands et petits, disiez, sans aucun égard pour moi, si elle est conforme à la vérité, ou non. Chacun de vous sait que Sa Hauteur veut que l'on prenne le plus grand soin que tous les habitants, Turcs, Chrétiens, et Juifs, soient à l'abri de la violence, de la peur, de la haine, et à la propriété; aussi ceux qui s'occupent de leurs intérêts spirituels et temporels, et se tiennent dans la voie de l'obéissance et de la soumission, jouiront-ils, sans nul doute, de cette sécurité. Depuis mon arrivée à Damas, je cherche à

remplir les intentions de Sa Hautesse, à me conformer à sa volonté souveraine. Depuis mon arrivée jusqu'à l'heure qu'il est, je ne me suis en aucune manière mêlé de votre costume. Dites si je vous ai jamais molestés à cet égard, si vous l'avez été par mes gens, si vous avez été l'objet de quelque injustice, soit de ma part, soit de la part de mes employés. Je demande que vous déclariez dans cette assemblée ce qui en est. Il faut que vous répondiez à toutes les questions que je vous ai faites. Parlez sans la moindre gêne, car si vous croyez avoir à vous plaindre, il faut que nous vous jugions conformément au code pénal; mais je me sens capable de justifier ma conduite et de prouver la fausseté des calomnies qui pèsent sur moi.

Tous les Chefs du Conseil réunis à Damas ont fait la réponse suivante:—

"Nous n'avons essayé ni de la part de Nejib Pacha, ni de la part des habitants employés, ni de la part des habitants, aucun procédé portant atteinte à notre honneur, ou relatif à un changement dans notre costume. Toutes les nations jouissent de la plus grande tranquillité, de la plus parfaite sécurité. Tous les actes de Son Excellence sont conformes aux saintes lois, et à la volonté pleine de clémence de Sa Hautesse; si nous avons eu quelque sujet de plainte, nous nous serions certes adressés au Pacha. Depuis son arrivée à Damas jusqu'à présent, nous n'avons eu aucun motif de nous plaindre, et le repos dont nous jouissons ne laisse rien à désirer."

No 26.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 291.)

My Lord,

Therapia, September 15, 1841.

I HAVE received a letter from Mr. Wood, dated Beyrout, the 29th August, where he had arrived on the 27th. Your Lordship is acquainted with the important matters committed to his charge by the Sublime Porte, and with my instructions to him.

He says that he was received in the most friendly manner by the Seraskier and the Desterdar, and invited to reside with the latter till the termination of the business with which he is charged. He says, the difficulties and the disturbances in Syria may be attributed almost entirely to the undue interference of foreign agents and emissaries, endeavouring to obtain influence by espousing, directly or indirectly, the interests or passions of some sect or faction, and aggravating the bitterness of religious animosity. The French have openly espoused the cause of the Catholics and Catholic Greeks, and persist in their assumed right to protect the persons of the priests, and endeavour to force their protection on the native merchants. The Russians are doing the same with the Greeks, and have procured a firman from Constantinople, ordering the Catholic priests to change their head-dress, because it resembled that worn by the Greeks. The French will not allow this firman to be carried into execution; the Russians persist in executing it. The most disgraceful scenes ensue. The Seraskier shows firmness, but he has to complain of the contradictory orders issued by the Porte; for, according to the firman procured by the Internuncio, and M. Titow and myself, the Christians were forbidden to interfere one with another, and ordered each to follow his own rites and religious ceremonies in peace.

The American missionaries, who have been endeavouring to establish schools in the mountains, have been insulted by having stones thrown at them by the Maronites, who say they have the Sultan's orders to do so, whilst the Maronite Patriarch, angered by the missionaries' attempts to make proselytes, has excommunicated all those who have any connection with them, or who sell them anything; and he threatens to employ force if the excommunication fails to have effect. He is encouraged by the French and the Jesuits in his unnatural conduct. I beg leave to call your attention to the expression of Mr. Wood's feeling; and your Lordship will, I hope, see the injustice of those suspicions of that gentleman, on account of his religion, which have been thought enough to draw upon him undeserved animadversion.

The Druses, that is, three or four of the Sheiks, Emir Rastan, Sheik

Naaman, Sheik Jousouf Dalhook, &c., who were lately guilty of the murder of their relations (the friends of the English), and of opposition to the Turkish Government, have sent messengers to Mr. Wood to say, they would unite with him to carry the orders of the Porte into execution if he would guarantee the safety of their persons at the meeting to be held to settle the affairs of the mountain. Mr. Wood engaged to secure them from all danger, and promised that the Seraskier would receive them with courtesy, and would not allude to the past. These Chiefs have been endeavouring to excite the Druses against the Maronites, and have endeavoured to bring about a misunderstanding between us and the Maronites. Mr. Wood adds that his arrival has discouraged them, because they know he is aware of, and can expose their secret motives, and they have, therefore, for the moment, taken a new turn, and now only desire to be reconciled to the Emir Beshir and the Turkish authorities.

Your Lordship can turn to Lieutenant-Colonel Rose's letter, where Sheik Naaman is mentioned.

Mr. Wood says, and he is supported by all who know the state of Syria, that so long as the country is exposed to the intrigues of Europeans as it has been, there can be no tranquillity, no respect for the Turkish authorities, who cannot gain sufficient influence to carry on the Government properly. This state of things is, I must observe, doubly mischievous; it hinders justice where it might be employed, and it gives an excuse for injustice to those who may gain by practising it.

The Emir Beshir had arrived, and the other Chiefs of Lebanon were every moment expected to give their attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Wood had sent to the Maronite Patriarch and to Emir Hendar copies of the arrangement and of the concessions to which the Sublime Porte has agreed. He had pointed out the advantages to them of those arrangements, and urged those personages to exert their influence and power to persuade all parties to accept of them. I have not yet heard from Mr. Wood, but before the end of the week, the principal points contained in my instruction to him will be carried into effect (your Lordship has those instructions before me) in spite of intrigue and jealousy.

The Maronite Patriarch and the Emir Beshir have received their Nishans, of which Mr. Wood was the bearer, and were highly pleased with them.

I hope your Lordship may expect, with some confidence, that a desirable settlement will be effected by Mr. Wood. I, who know what he has effected before in Syria, do expect it, and I know that his zeal in the service of his country cannot be dampened by calumny nor by mal-appreciation of his services.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PONSONRY

No. 27

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(Extract.)

October 30, 1841.

SYRIA is that portion of the empire in the condition of which you will naturally feel the warmest interest, and which may justly claim all your solicitude. Recently brought under the dominion of the Sultan by the assistance of his Allies, we may reasonably desire to see that the restoration of legitimate government should not give any cause to regret the usurped rule of Mehemet Ali. The devastation of these provinces by the horrors of war, and the sufferings and privations of the inhabitants, may well demand sympathy and relief from the Turkish Government. It is understood that a remission of taxation has been already granted to a considerable amount; but the losses of the people, in consequence of the destruction of their habitations and property by their Egyptian oppressors, and their present state of destitution call for the utmost indulgence on the part of their rulers. You will use your endeavours to prevent, if possible, the benevolence of the Sultan from being frustrated, and the succours intended for the Syrians from being otherwise diverted by the corruption and rapacity of local governors.

The condition of the numerous Christian population of these districts could never have been a matter of indifference, and is now become a source of lively interest. Different sects put forward their respective claims to our attention, but a portion of Syria, scarcely either Christian or Mahometan, is immersed in a state almost of pagan superstition. The efforts of pious and devoted men may perhaps lead to the blessings of a more enlightened and of a purer faith. But whatever may be done or attempted for the intellectual and moral improvement of these persons, the utmost care should be taken never to shake their allegiance or diminish their loyalty, but to endeavour to render them contented with their lot and obedient to the government of their lawful Sovereign.

It is understood that the Porte has already appointed a Governor of Jerusalem, who is specially charged with the protection of the Christian population. As he is independent of the local authorities, and will communicate on all occasions with the Government at Constantinople, much good may be expected from this nomination.

No. 28

Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 15.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 11, 1841

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a note addressed by Lord Ponsonby to the Sublime Porte, upon the receipt yesterday by his Lordship of despatches from Syria, which contain the account of a collision between two villages in Lebanon, in which several men of both parties have been killed.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES BANKHEAD

Inclosure in No. 28

Viscount Ponsonby to the Grand Visier

Therapia, October 10, 1841

HIS Excellency Rifaat Pasha undoubtedly has received accounts from Syria by this post, showing that the Christian population in that country are in danger. The Undersigned knows that his Excellency cannot be ignorant that this danger proceeds from the conduct of Nejd Pasha, and the Undersigned therefore is compelled to say that the responsibility for any harm and injury that may befall the Christians there, must rest upon the Sublime Porte.

The Undersigned, &c., (Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 29

Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 16.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 11, 1841

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship two despatches from Colonel Rose, Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria, which were sent to me under flying seal. At the same time Lord Ponsonby received despatches from Mr. Consul Wood, inclosing copies of others addressed by him to the Secretary of State. They agree, I am sorry to say, in stating that the British influence, hitherto prominent in Syria, has lately been weakened; and while Colonel Rose seems to attribute that misfortune to the two-fold reasons of the late appearance of a French squadron off Beyrout, and the consequent assumption of a protecting tone towards the Christians on the part of the French authorities in that country, Mr. Wood censures the Pasha of Damascus, as being desirous of creating divisions between the Christian and Mussulman population. The result of all this is a state of alarm and excitement

throughout the country, destructive of those hopes of peace and tranquillity which were created on the restoration of Syria to the Porte.

I take the liberty to ask your Lordship's attention to this subject, and of suggesting that some definite instruction may be given to Her Majesty's agents in Syria for the purpose of doing away with that divergence of opinion and feeling which it is impossible not to perceive exists.

I shall think it my duty to urge the immediate delivery of Colonel Rose's beret, and I hope to be able to send it by the next steamer to Beyrout. As this officer has been appointed by Her Majesty's Government Consul-General in Syria, I think he ought without delay to have all proper authority.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES BANKHEAD.

No. 30

Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 17.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 13, 1841

I BEG leave to apologise to your Lordship for not having sent by the messenger, Mr. Wood's account of the collision which, I regret to say, recently took place between two parties of Druses and Christians, in which many persons lost their lives.

I have now the honour of transmitting an extract of Mr. Consul Wood's despatch to Lord Ponsonby thereupon. His report likewise mentions some disturbance having taken place between the Arabs of the neighbouring desert and villages in the district of Nablous.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES BANKHEAD

Inclosure in No. 30

Mr. Wood to Viscount Ponsonby

(Extract.)

Damascus, September 23, 1841.

ON the 14th instant a collision took place between the Druses of "Boukha" and two other villages belonging to Sheik Noaman Djiblat, and the Christians of Deir-el-Kammar. The enmity of these two sects to each other is very great; they almost seek the opportunity of evincing it; and I believe, in this instance, the collision originated in a dispute between some sportsmen. The following day the "Sout," or cry to arms, was resounded from mountain to mountain, but as I was crossing Mount Lebanon at the time, I sent immediately messengers to the Bishop of Zahlé, to request he would prevent the Christians from repairing to the scene of action, and I wrote a letter to the Emir of Hasbeya in Anti Lebanon, to disperse the Druses that had collected for the same purpose. Fourteen Druses were killed in the affray, and thirty were wounded, and the Christians had five killed and fourteen wounded.

Great confusion and excitement seems to reign in the mountains of Nablous. At the death of Saleman Effendi (the Governor of Nablous), Nejd Pasha appointed his brother, Mohammed Effendi, to the vacancy, much against the wish of the Nablousians, to whom the family of Abdul Had is particularly obnoxious, on account of their tyranny during the Egyptian administration. The other Sheiks commenced instantly to fortify themselves in the villages by reconstructing the forts that were demolished by Ibrahim Pasha. The Governor, Mohammed Effendi, marched immediately against them, and as the peasants shut themselves up in them he had recourse to force. Sheik Berkawy, one of the principal Chiefs of Nablous, fell into his hands, and is now in the prisons of Damascus.

An affray took place between the Arabs of the tribe of Sakr and the Nablousians, near Ghor, in which the latter were beaten, and a great number of them killed, notwithstanding that they were supported by a body of irregulars. In their flight Abdullah-el-Husseini, son of the deceased

Governor, and his uncle, Mahmud Abdul Hadi, took refuge with about thirty of their followers in one of the villages of Nablous, but such is the feeling against that family, that the inhabitants availed themselves of the confusion to murder the former with his suite, and wounded the latter in his attempt to escape.

The Government has sent a large body of irregular troops to drive back the Arabs, and to establish order in that district.

No. 31.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 11.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 25, 1841.

I ENCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch from Colonel Ross, Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria, stating the inconvenience which would result from the late Emir Beshir being allowed to return to Syria. I enclose also a copy of a despatch, which was received in this command in the Lebanon, in the month of October, 1840, by virtue of a firman granted by the Sultan to the present Emir Beshir, whereupon the former gave himself up to Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, and was conveyed in a British ship-of-war to Malta, where he remained until the end of last September.

Your Excellency will find, in Viscount Palmerston's despatches to your predecessor, No. 246, of November 24, 1840, and No. 104, of April 29, 1841, copies of correspondence between Viscount Palmerston and the late Emir Beshir. It is to be observed that those despatches show, as we see that Her Majesty's Government were of opinion that the Porte might reasonably allow the deposed Chief to reside in any part of the Turkish dominions, excepting Syria. Your Excellency will also find in Lord Lovelace's letter to the Secretary of the Admiralty, of the 31st March, of which a copy was inclosed in Viscount Palmerston's despatch, No. 60, of that day, a clear statement of the extent to which Her Majesty's Government felt called upon to interfere in favour of the late Emir Beshir.

It was, doubtless, in pursuance of the recommendation contained in the first of the despatches which I have now mentioned, that the Sultan issued the firman of which a copy was inclosed in Viscount Ponsonby's despatch, No. 18, of the 20th of January last, by which His Highness granted permission to the late Emir to reside in any part of the Turkish dominions, with the exception of Syria. Relying upon the protection offered to him in this firman, the late Emir, as appears from Sir Robert Stopford's despatch to Viscount Ponsonby, of the 6th of February, 1841, stated his intention of proceeding to Constantinople; the Porte having immediately after his departure from Syria, as reported in Viscount Ponsonby's despatch, No. 254, of the 3rd of November, 1840, expressed its wish that he should do so. The departure, however, of the late Emir from Malta, ~~on the 2nd of September~~, took place ~~on the 2nd of September~~, and he appears to have arrived at Constantinople on the 4th of October.

Her Majesty's Government would much regret that the Sultan should be prevailed upon to rescind the prohibition which he so wisely inserted in his firman, against the late Emir returning to Syria. For Her Majesty's Government consider that the tendency of such relaxation on the part of the Sultan would be, if possible, to increase the disorganization which is unhappily prevalent in Syria at the present time, and to render the eventual settlement of that country a matter of the greatest difficulty.

Her Majesty's Government are so fully sensible of the great importance for the Porte that tranquillity should be secured in Syria at the earliest possible period, that they earnestly recommend to the Porte not to suffer itself to be induced by any promises on the part of the late Emir, to admit of his return to Syria on any terms whatsoever. Above all the Porte should not forget that the agent by whom the firman of investiture was transmitted to the present Emir Beshir, was a servant of the British Government, and that Her Majesty's Government have a right to expect that the Porte will not wantonly deprive him of the authority so conveyed to him.

I am, &c
Signed) ABERDEEN

Inclosure in No. 30

Colonel Ross to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 6.)

My Lord,

Beirut, October 1, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship that great excitement prevails in this country on account of a report which is generally believed, and which was brought here among others by the officers of one of Her Majesty's ships, that the ex-Emir Beshir, or a part of his family,—his son the Emir Emin is mentioned,—has left Malta, and proceeded to Constantinople. His Highness, by agents and letters, has announced that he is about to return, and the mountaineers of all sects are firmly persuaded that if he once reaches Constantinople he will effect his return to this country and to power. I confess that I cannot consider their apprehensions unfounded, when I reflect on the clever and intriguing disposition of the ex-Emir Beshir, and on the means which he possesses by his wealth, which he would spend liberally, in effecting his purpose, and on the improper appointments which I know have been obtained in this country and at Constantinople by means of corruption. His Highness last year, when on board Her Majesty's ship which was to convey him to Malta, offered Mr. Moore 30,000*l.* to procure his return to power. I may add also, that the Turkish authorities in this country are not well disposed towards the present Emir Beshir, and that in all probability they have written in this feeling to the Sublime Porte. His Highness is certainly not suited to the time, as I have always had the honour to represent to Viscount Palmerston, and first in my despatch No. 30, of the 3rd of May; but the British Government has pledged itself to support him. He is attached to Great Britain and, although weakened by age and infirmities, he is still a brave and honourable man. It is true that traces of a government are scarcely to be perceived in the country; but the Emir Beshir, in answer to this grave charge, says that he has never received any pay whatever to enable him to keep up an armed or police force, or even to pay the officers and petty governors, or any functionaries whatever; and that his power of checking disorder by prompt punishment as an example, is trammelled by the Hatti-Sheriff of Gulhahod, whereas his predecessor had an unlimited command of money, and despotic power which he exercised unparingly. It is true that the ex-Emir Beshir did maintain order in the country, but he did so by means of cruelties and a disregard of life which create indignation, and by a profuse expenditure of money, the fruits of exactions which have reduced numerous families to want, and have impoverished the country at large. His return to this country, although it were even unsanctioned by the British Government, would call in question its good faith among the mountaineers. Two or three persons of note remarked to me the day before yesterday, "How can the ex-Emir Beshir go from Malta to Constantinople without the sanction of the British Government, he is there at Malta, and if he is not to come back, he ought to be kept there, but if he goes to Constantinople we know well that he will come here." The restoration to power of the ex-Emir Beshir would inflict misery on the Lebanon; it would enable that proud and vindictive person, uncontrolled, to gratify his vengeance on the helpless mountaineers who assisted to bring about the result which caused his expulsion from power. In his heart his Highness is still, as on all occasions he has proved himself to be, attached to Mehmet Ali, and with his disposition, however he may affect to do so, he will never forget the policy which Great Britain has pursued towards him.

The adherents of the ex-Emir Beshir have latterly been on the increase, and for two reasons:—

1 Because at present crime and disorder are unnumbered and there are those who prefer even the rule of his Highness to such a state of things.
2 Because his Highness's age is now advanced so perceptibly that he is to be restored to power—that people begin to think it must be so—and because the reported arrival of his Highness strengthens this idea. The mountaineers, therefore, seek some by silence and others by a disavowal of their hostility, to

H

full the anger of one into whose hands they believe that their destinies are to be shortly committed.

Mr. Consul Wood stated on his arrival here from Constantinople, that Her Majesty's Ambassador had obtained a promise from the Sublime Porte that the ex-Emir Beshir should never return to Syria; but for the reasons I have stated, I have the honour to submit to your Lordship, with the utmost deference, that it would be most desirable that the ex-Emir should not leave Malta: for the state of doubt in which people's minds are at present in Lebanon causes much harm to the authority of the present Prince, and increases the excitement and agitation in the country.

I send this despatch under flying seal to Lieutenant General Sir Henry Bouvier, in order that, should his Excellency deem fit, he may prevent the departure of his Highness the ex-Emir Beshir for Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

HUGH ROSE,

Colonel, commanding Her Majesty's Detachments in Syria.

No. 32

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 17)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 27, 1841

WITH reference to my despatch No. 11, of the 25th of November respecting the late Emir Beshir, I have to state to your Excellency that although Her Majesty's Government would deprecate the return of that person to Syria, Her Majesty's Government would not entertain the same objection to his son, the Emir Emin, who is with him at Constantinople, being appointed to the Government of Lebanon, if the Porte should wish to make a change in the Government of that district. From the accounts received from Her Majesty's servants in Syria, the capacity of the present Emir Beshir to administer the affairs of the Lebanon in the state of disorganization which unhappily prevails there appears doubtful; and from the character which is given of the Emir Emin, it seems to Her Majesty's Government not improbable that the Porte may look upon him as a person likely to be an efficient successor to the present Emir Beshir. If this should be the case it would not be necessary that your Excellency should offer any objection to the Emir Emin's nomination to the Government of the Lebanon.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

ABERDEEN.

No. 33

Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen — (Received December 8.)

(No. 41)

My Lord,

Pera, November 16, 1841

ON the 9th instant I received, by a tatar from Tarsus, the inclosed dispatches, under flying seal, from Colonel Rose, Her Majesty's Consul General in Syria, and, at the same time, copies of some letters from Mr. Wood, Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, and addressed by him to Lord Palmerston. I regret very much to find by these despatches that there exists in Syria a spirit of animosity between the Druses and the Christians which has already led to one or two sanguinary conflicts, and which may be productive of still greater mischief. Both Colonel Rose and Mr. Wood agree in condemning the conduct of Nejib Pasha, Governor of Damascus. His open dislike to Christians, and the certainty of his connivance at the late attacks upon them, together with the state of terror which he has inspired throughout the Lebanon, in consequence of his taking such a decided part with the Druses, induced me to present the other day a strong recommendation to the Porte to deprive him

of his present post. I urged all these topics upon Rifaat Pasha in a conversation I previously had with his Excellency, who enjoined me to communicate some facts and suggestions in a memorandum to which he would give his approval in the Council, for from all sides the Government receive complaints against their Governor of Damascus.

I have not heard what determination has been taken upon my remarks, but I learn from a good source, that the Government is satisfied at the manner in which I have presented them to their notice.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

CHARLES BANKHEAD.

P.S.—I yesterday evening had a conversation with the Internuncio on the above subject, and his Excellency promised to second my endeavours to procure the dismissal of Nejib Pasha.

No. 34

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 30.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 22, 1841

I HAVE to state your Excellency, that the accounts which Her Majesty's Government continue to receive from Syria, occasion them much pain and uneasiness. The active part which England took last year in the operations which led to the restoration of that province to the immediate rule of the Sultan, while it causes Her Majesty's Government to feel a more than ordinary degree of interest in the welfare of its inhabitants, authorizes them to address to the Porte, through your Excellency, the strongest representations, with the view of inducing the Turkish Government to take immediate measures for the restoration of order and tranquillity in Syria.

The whole country south of Beyrout appears to be in a state of disorganization. There is no security for individuals, and the authority of the Sultan is merely nominal. But it is especially in Mount Lebanon that disorder has been allowed to proceed to excesses, which can only be put a stop to by prompt and vigorous measures on the part of the Porte.

The enmity between the Druses and the Maronites of Mount Lebanon is of ancient date. A difference of religious belief, added to a struggle for political supremacy between two parties, the numerical superiority of one being more than counterbalanced by the warlike qualities of the other, has continually produced contests between them. Of late years the oppressive rule of Mehemet Ali, acting nearly equally upon both, maintained peace between the rival parties, but their jealousies and animosities revived on the departure of the Egyptians, and have brought about the warfare which has desolated the Lebanon.

It has been alleged that the recent outbreak was accelerated by foreign suggestion, acting upon minds too easily excited. But, be that as it may, Her Majesty's Government have at least the satisfaction of knowing that no such accusation can be brought against any British agents, and that Her Majesty's servants in Syria have spared no pains, and have shrunk from no risk, in endeavouring to prevent, and to put an end to, the disorders which have taken place.

Whatever may have been the immediate cause of conflict, whether it arose from foreign instigation or from old internal feuds, and whichever party may be chargeable with having commenced hostilities, it is unfortunately too certain that, in the progress of the contest, both parties have vied with each other in committing every species of enormity. Men, women, and children, have, on both sides, been the victims, houses, churches, and entire villages have been destroyed, and the outrages have only ceased on the expulsion of the vanquished party from the scene of conflict.

It might, indeed, have been expected that the authorities of the Sultan in the neighbouring districts would have taken effectual means to put a stop to such a state of things. But Her Majesty's Government regret to say that, as far as they can learn, those authorities not only did not exert themselves as

H B

they ought to have done to restore order, but actually supplied one of the contending parties with the means of carrying on hostilities. At all events it is notorious that a Chief, named Shih-el-Arian, who was high in favour with the Pasha of Damascus, was actively engaged on the side of the Druses.

This supineness on the part of the Turkish authorities, and the little regard which they paid to the representations of the British agents who pointed out to them the most effectual means for separating the combatants, would almost justify the belief that the contest of the rival parties was a source of satisfaction to their common rulers. The known sentiments of the Pasha of Damascus render it probable that he at least would not refrain from any measures which might tend to the oppression of the Christians; and the instigation of a warlike sect to attack their Christian neighbours would offer the readiest mode of giving effect to his own views with the least risk of compromising himself with his sovereign.

Her Majesty's Government cannot believe that such are the sentiments of the Porte. They are satisfied that the Sultan has no desire to withhold from any class of his subjects, Mahometans, Christians, or Druses, the privileges which in the Hatti-Sheriff of Gulhane, he professed to confer equally upon all. They cannot but remember that one of the chief grounds alleged by the Porte, in justification of the resentment felt by the Sultan at the conduct of Mehemet Ali while ruler of Syria, was the oppression which he exercised towards the people of that province. But harsh as was the government of Mehemet Ali, he nevertheless maintained order in the country; and the Porte must not conceal from itself that the inhabitants of Syria may look back with regret upon the government of Mehemet Ali, if the power of the Sultan is insufficient to secure them in the enjoyment of the privileges which he has declared that he would bestow upon them.

The first point to which the Porte, under existing circumstances, should direct its attention, is to restore order in the Lebanon. That object will not be effected by fomenting the animosities of rival sects; but it may be brought about by teaching both parties to look up to the Sultan as their common protector. It may be difficult at once to lay the angry feelings which have been displayed in the late contest; but much may be accomplished, even in that respect, by compensating sufferers for losses which they may have sustained, and by restoring them in the possession of the lands which they have been deprived of. Under any circumstances, however, it is indispensable that the Porte should place at the disposal of its authorities in Syria, a strong reinforcement of regular troops, sufficient to overawe a party, or parties, that party which has been victorious in the struggle. The Porte should order its military commanders to repress, at the outset, the first indications of a disposition, in any quarter, to renew the contest; and should enjoin them to maintain, on all occasions, the lawful authority of the Sultan. It is impossible to estimate at too high a value the importance to the Porte of the maintenance of order in Syria. But it cannot be expected that order will be preserved in Syria, unless the authorities of the Porte, in that country, demean themselves in such a way as to conciliate the good will of the inhabitants. Her Majesty's Government regret to say that such has not always been the case; and they do not hesitate, on the information which has reached them, to pronounce that Nejb Pasha, the chief Turkish authority in Syria, is responsible for much of the evil which has occurred in that country.

Her Majesty's Government have more than once had occasion to point out to the Porte the disastrous consequences which must inevitably result from the maintenance of Nejb Pasha in his post of Pasha of Damascus. They have abstained of late from renewing the subject, because they relied on the assurances given by Rifat Pasha to your Excellency in a previous despatch, as reported in his despatch No. 240 of the 18th of July, that if Nejb Pasha failed in any degree whatever in obeying the orders of the Porte, to avoid giving any cause of dissatisfaction to the Syrians, he should instantly be removed from his post. But Nejb Pasha still rules in Syria, notwithstanding that in defiance of those orders, he continues to oppress the Christian subjects of the Sultan, to interfere arbitrarily with the inferior governors, and to maintain in places of trust and influence persons notorious for the cruelties which have marked their conduct on former occasions, or known to be attached to the fortunes of Mehemet Ali.

Her Majesty's Government, therefore, feel themselves now entitled to claim from Rifat Pasha, the fulfilment of the promise which he made to Viscount Ponsonby in July last; and they claim it with the greater earnestness at the present moment, because they are convinced that nothing but the most prudent and conciliatory conduct on the part of the Turkish authorities, can uphold the dominion of the Sultan in Syria, and that an example is required, to show those authorities that the Sultan is determined to keep the promises which he made to his people in the Hatti-Sheriff of Gulhane, and to punish all those, however exalted may be their rank, who shall presume to thwart his gracious intentions in that respect.

Your Excellency will communicate to the Turkish Government the observations contained in this despatch.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 35.

Mr Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 26)

No. 55.)

My Lord,

Peru, December 1, 1841.

THE late troubles in Syria having been brought to the serious notice of the Sublime Porte, as well by their own agents as by Her Majesty's Embassy, and the other Missions at Constantinople, it has been at length resolved to send a person whose position and weight of character will be likely to produce a satisfactory arrangement of the differences existing in that distracted province.

I received the day before yesterday, in common with my colleagues of Austria, Prussia, Russia and France, a message from Rifat Pasha, announcing this determination of the Porte; and I have since learnt that the Sultan's choice has fallen upon Yacoub Pasha, at present Governor of Adrianople. He will be instructed to examine thoroughly the state of the country, the causes of the troubles that now agitate it, and to make a full report thereupon to the Sultan.

Rifat Pasha expressed great concern at the present deplorable state of Syria, and the determination of the Government to put an end to it, by sending a person whose position and weight of character will be likely to produce a satisfactory arrangement of the differences existing in that distracted province.

Yacoub Pasha will have a difficult task to perform, for he will find the country a prey not only to intestine dissensions, kept alive by active foreign partizans, but he will likewise be met by a disinclination on the part of the people to pay even such moderate contributions as were apportioned to them, upon a revival of their finances here some months ago.

I understand that the conduct of Yacoub Pasha during the late disturbances in Roumelia, has given such satisfaction to the Porte as to induce the Turkish Ministers to appoint him on the present occasion, and much benefit, it is thought, will accrue to Syria from his character and discernment.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES BANKHEAD

No. 36.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 35)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 31, 1841

I ENCLOSE for your Excellency's information a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Colonel Rose, in reply to his last reports of the state of affairs in Syria.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN

Inclosure in No. 36.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Colonel Rose.

(No. 16.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 31, 1841.

I HAVE received your despatches to No. 134, of the 20th of November inclusive, and I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your conduct in the circumstances reported in those despatches, and the zealous endeavours which you have made to put a stop to the disorders and the bloodshed which the unhappy feuds between the Druses and the Christians have occasioned in Mount Lebanon.

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has been instructed to call the serious attention of the Porte to the state of Syria, and to the supineness manifested by the Turkish authorities in general during the scenes related in your despatches. His Excellency will point out to the Porte the absolute necessity of placing at the disposal of its authorities in Syria an amount of regular troops sufficient to control all parties, and he will recommend that the Turkish military commanders should have orders to repress at the outset every attempt at a disposition in any quarter to remove a Governor. Sir Stratford Canning will also urge the Porte to remove Nejib Pasha, whose system of government appears to be the occasion of much of the disorder which prevails in Syria, and who, there is much reason to imagine, has fomented rather than repressed the animosity between the Druses and the Christians.

I mention this last circumstance more particularly with reference to the mission of Yacoub Pasha to inquire into the state of Syria, upon which it appears the Porte has determined. Her Majesty's Government are aware of the powerful support upon which Nejib Pasha may reckon at Constantinople, and that Yacoub Pasha might in consequence be deterred from making a faithful report of the misdeeds of Nejib, lest he should compromise himself with the friends of the latter at Constantinople. But if Yacoub Pasha should understand that in laying before the Porte a true statement of Nejib's conduct he will meet with the support of the British Ambassador, he may be encouraged to make a faithful report to his Sovereign, and so contribute to the removal of a Governor whose continuance in Syria threatens to bring about the entire subversion of the Sultan's authority in that province.

I need scarcely add that it is the wish of Her Majesty's Government that you should give Yacoub Pasha all the information you can, which may enable him to form a correct estimate of the state of affairs.

You allude in your despatch No. 126 of the 11th of November to a conversation which you had with the Emir Beshir a few days before, and to the advice which you had given him to lay a statement of his case before the Porte. You did quite right in abstaining from offering any opinion on the question of his continuing to hold the Government of Lebanon. Her Majesty's Government are aware that the Emir possesses many estimable qualities, but he appears unfortunately to be wanting in those which are required for the administration of that district in the present critical state of affairs. But Her Majesty's Government would be unwilling to incur the responsibility of recommending that he should retire of his own accord, or of suggesting to the Porte that a successor should be appointed to him. You may be right in your conjecture that the Turkish authorities on the spot would see with pleasure his voluntary abdication, in the expectation that such an act would increase the confusion in the Lebanon, and ultimately break the strength of both Druses and Christians.

Her Majesty's Government trust that such is not the policy of the Porte, but they consider that the removal of the present Emir Beshir and the nomination of his successor, will be most likely to lead to the restoration of peace in the Lebanon, and indeed by the Porte itself. With regard to the person upon whom the choice of the Porte should fall, Her Majesty's Government do not feel themselves authorized to offer an opinion, except in so far as the late Emir Beshir may be considered a candidate for the office. Sir Stratford Canning, as I informed you in my despatch No. 10 of the 26th of November, has been instructed to deprecate the reinstatement of that individual, but His

Excellency has also been told that if the Porte should look upon the Emir Emin as a person likely to be an efficient successor to the present Emir Beshir, it would not be necessary that he should offer any objection to his nomination.

Her Majesty's Government cannot suppose that the Porte would think of nominating any member of Michael's family to the government of the Lebanon.

With regard to the concluding passage of my despatch No. 126, in which you mention the pecuniary compensation with which the Emir Beshir might be contented, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government would very reluctantly make any such concession on that subject. The losses of the Emir have doubtless been considerable, but in that respect he has only partaken of the lot of which his fellow-countrymen, Druses and Christians, are all alike to partake. Their property destroyed, their houses pillaged, and their lands laid waste, and their souls in sorrow, cannot easily be compensated by any other means than another such calamity, or receive compensation. If Her Majesty's Government have, in fact, directed Sir Stratford Canning to represent to the Porte that such a concession would be for the pacification of the Lebanon, it is only as a measure of expediency, which they may have suggested during the late contests, and by consenting thereby to the possession of which they may have been ejected. It is impossible to anticipate what effect the Porte may have in its disposition with ability to attend to the suggestion, but whatever may be the result, it can be found that the greatest part of the whole of the miseries which have befallen recent inhabitants of the Lebanon are attributable to the feuds, jealousies, and animosities which they have cherished among themselves. As long as such a state of feeling exists between the Druses and the Christians, they will be exposed to a repetition of similar calamities; and their Mahomedan rulers will be encouraged to avail themselves of the easy means thus offered to them, of playing off against each other the rival parties, and of ultimately oppressing both alike.

I am, &c.

Signed) ALBERT N

No. 37

Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 19, 1842.)

(No. 00.)

My Lord,

Pera, December 17, 1841.

I HAVE received despatches from Mr Consul Wood, and from Colonel Rose, of the 22nd and 30th ultimo.

The former describes the state of parties as still very unsatisfactory, and he urges again the necessity of Nejib Pasha's recall from the Pashalik of Damascus, as the first step towards a return to tranquillity. There seems to be no doubt that, through his emissaries, Nejib encouraged the Druses in their late attacks upon the Christians of Mount Lebanon, but his principal agent, a Druse chief, Shibli-el Arian, having overstepped the cautious restrictions of the Pasha, ventured to attack the Maronites in the town of Zahlé, which they defended with spirit, and drove the assailants away. The consequence of success on that occasion, by the Druses, would have been a quarrel between them and the Turkish forces, for Reshid Pasha marched to the neighbourhood of Zahlé, with a strong force, for the purpose of restoring order, and he would have been obliged to have arrested the progress of the Druses had they succeeded in defeating the inhabitants of that city. Hence the difficulty in which Nejib has since found himself.

Colonel Rose's despatches are of a later date, and represent the Druses to have retired, tranquillity for the time restored, and, what is more important, that the Maronite Patriarch appears at last to have been convinced of the false insinuations made to him of the views and conduct of Her Majesty's agents in Syria.

I have, &c.

Signed) CHARLES BANKHEAD

Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 19, 1842.)

(No. 62.)

My Lord,

Pera, December 17, 1841

IN reference to my despatch No. 56, in which I mentioned to your Lordship the intention of the Porte to send Yacoub Pasha to Syria, as Commissioner to investigate into the various complaints of misgovernment existing in that country, I have the honour now to state, that at a Council of Ministers, held on Monday last, the Sultan decided upon revoking that appointment, and sending the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha instead. It is asserted, that His Imperial Majesty is influenced in this choice on account of the rank of the Seraskier being so much higher, and, as such, offering to the Syrians a greater proof of the interest His Majesty takes in the welfare of his subjects in that province. I understand, from good authority, that Mustapha Pasha will be furnished with authority to displace Nejib from the Pashalic of Damascus. I have all along been impressed with the necessity of this measure, and in obeying a request of Rifaat Pasha, to furnish him with the latest news from Syria, I availed myself of the opportunity of renewing to the Porte my opinions upon the subject. The Pasha sent me word that he approved of the memorandum thus furnished, and I know that it was to be read at the Council held on Monday last. It is decided that Tahir, the Captain Pasha, is to be charged with the duties of the War Department during the Seraskier's absence. I believe there are other reasons than those ostensibly given for the appointment of Mustapha Pasha to Syria, complaints have been made of his want of activity (a failing ascribed to his present colleagues as well as to himself) and perhaps before the period of his return, circumstances may arise which will cause a person of greater vigour to be put in his place.

Mustapha Pasha is considered a man of good intentions; he is a strict Mussulman, although not a bigot, but I doubt very much if his substitution for Yacoub Pasha may not turn out an unfortunate appointment, the latter being a man of very superior abilities to the Seraskier, and whose energy of character gave promise of some good being effected by his presence in Syria.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES BANKHEAD

No. 39.

Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 15, 1842.)

(No. 63.)

My Lord,

Pera, December 24, 1841

SOME days before I had the honour of receiving your Lordship's despatch No. 17, of the 27th ultimo, addressed to Sir Stratford Canning, I thought it could do no harm to sound Rifaat Pasha as to the feelings of the Porte with regard to the Emir Emin, son of the ex-Emir Beshir.

I was induced to take this step in consequence of suggestions made on more than one occasion by Colonel Rose, that the nomination of that person as Emir Beshir might be of service in allaying the animosities existing in the Lebanon; and I was strengthened in my resolution in consequence of the character of the present Emir, who is acknowledged by all parties to be utterly unfit for his situation.

I beg leave to observe, however, that the remark thus offered to the Minister for Foreign Affairs was understood as a consequence of the Porte desiring such a change in the Government of Lebanon, and was not intended in any way to counsel such a measure, however necessary I might have thought it to be to do so. The Pasha received my remark in perfect good part, and I doubt not would have availed himself of it, had not his removal from office prevented any further communication upon the subject.

While steadily following the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's despatch No. 11, respecting the ex-Emir Beshir, I shall not lose sight, at a proper moment, of expressing the opinion of Her Majesty's Government with regard to his son.

I feel the absolute necessity for some alteration in the Government of Mount Lebanon, and I know of no one more likely to effect that desirable change than the person mentioned by your Lordship; but if the Porte should determine upon his nomination, great care should be taken in the preparation of his instructions, and in prescribing the extent of his authority in that country.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES BANKHEAD.

No. 40

Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 25.)

(No. 73.)

My Lord,

Pera, December 29, 1841

I RECEIVED yesterday letters from Mr. Consul Wood, dated Damascus, 15th instant, and I am happy to say, that from his accounts, the disturbances of which Syria was lately the theatre, have for the time subsided; and I trust that the presence of the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha, who is entrusted with full powers from the Sultan to examine and report upon the grievances of the Syrians, will insure a continuance of the truce.

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a despatch from Mr. Wood, by which you will see that the fears entertained by him of acts of violence on the part of the Mussulman population of Damascus towards the Christians, have likewise much subsided since he addressed your Lordship on the 20th November last.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES BANKHEAD

Inclosure in No. 40

Mr. Consul Wood to Mr. Bankhead

Sir,

Damascus, December 15, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of my reports to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, respecting the public insults offered to the Christians of Damascus, and the threats of the populace to massacre them indiscriminately.

I am happy in being able to state now, that there is no cause at present to make me apprehend any danger to the Flava residing here from the fanaticism of the Mussulman populace. The Grandees of the city and the Ulemas have assured me that they would afford them protection, in case the local Government was too weak to support them.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) R. WOOD.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning

(No. 9.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 22, 1842.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency, that Her Majesty's Government have been much surprised at learning, within these few days, that the Porte entertains an unfavourable opinion of the conduct of Colonel Rose, Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria. Her Majesty's Government are wholly at a loss to conceive what can have led to such an impression on the minds of the Turkish Ministers, and can have induced them to overlook the zeal and activity which Colonel Rose, from the first moment of his landing in Syria, has continually displayed for the service of the Sultan, and for the advancement of the true interests of the Turkish Government.

The Porte surely cannot have forgotten the gallant manner in which Colonel Rose, in the early part of his residence in Syria, led on a party of the Sultan's forces to the attack of a superior force of Mehemet Ali's followers, on which occasion he was wounded. Neither can the Porte have forgotten that Colonel Rose, from the time that the command of the British detachments in Syria devolved upon him, has conscientiously devoted himself to the maintenance of the Sultan's authority in the districts round Beyrout, by affording to the officers of the Sultan his advice and co-operation on all occasions, by impressing upon the native Chiefs that it was their bounden duty, under all circumstances, to maintain their allegiance to the Sultan, and by endeavouring to mitigate the animosities of rival sects which threatened to disturb the peace of the country, and to render unavailing the benevolent intentions of the Sultan for the happiness of his Syrian subjects. The Porte cannot have forgotten how much was due to the exertions of Colonel Rose, when the question of the tribute to be raised in Mount Lebanon for the service of the Porte was in agitation; how zealously he exerted himself to bring about an adjustment of that difficult question in a manner satisfactory to the Porte; and how steadily he discountenanced all proceedings which could bear the appearance of disrespect for the sovereign authority of the Sultan. Least of all can the Porte have forgotten the exertions which, during the melancholy contest which has recently desolated the Lebanon, Colonel Rose made to rouse the Turkish authorities to uphold the supremacy of the Sultan indifferently over all the inhabitants of the Lebanon; how earnestly he laboured to reconcile the contending parties; and how gallantly he exposed his life in attempting to put a stop to the calamities of civil war.

Whatever may be the opinion which the Ministers of the Sultan may have been led to entertain of Colonel Rose's conduct, the opinion of the Turkish authorities on the scene of action, who have had the best opportunities of judging what that conduct was, is conclusive in his favour. Amidst all the perplexing difficulties with which he has had to contend, the Seraskier Schin Pasha has ever found in Colonel Rose a faithful counsellor and a zealous supporter, on all occasions when counsel and support were required by him for the maintenance of the Sultan's authority; and it is no wonder that, under such circumstances, Colonel Rose has succeeded in gaining the good-will of that commander.

The Porte cannot doubt that the British Government is anxious to promote the interests of the Sultan in all parts of his dominions, and the Porte cannot suppose that the British Government would have appointed Colonel Rose to the responsible situations of Commander of the British detachments, and afterwards of Consul-General, if it had not been convinced that Colonel Rose would faithfully act up to the intentions of his Government, by taking advantage of every opportunity which presented itself, for consolidating the dominion of the Sultan in Syria, and for rendering the possession of that country of real benefit to the Porte.

Your Excellency is aware that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve of Colonel Rose's conduct, and the knowledge of that fact, if the

Porte really entertains the opinion which it professes to hold of the disinterested attachment felt for it by the British Government, should convince the Turkish Ministers that any reports which may have reached them to the prejudice of Colonel Rose, originate in the malevolence of individuals who seek, by calumnious insinuations, to discredit the accounts which may reach the Porte, through Colonel Rose, of their own careless indifference to the interests and disobedience to the will of the Sultan.

I have thought it right to apprise your Excellency, at the earliest period, of the feelings with which Her Majesty's Government would receive from the Porte any complaints against Colonel Rose's conduct up to the 7th of December last, the date of his last reports. Her Majesty's Government, approving, as they do entirely of that conduct, would look upon any such communication as an evidence of distrust in the intentions of Great Britain towards Turkey.

After all, however, it is possible that the information which has reached Her Majesty's Government, as to the feelings of the Porte with respect to Colonel Rose, is incorrect. Her Majesty's Government trust that they have been misinformed; but, if the contrary should be the case, I have to instruct your Excellency to seek an interview with the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, and to cause my present despatch to be translated to him in your presence and to add such other observations as may occur to you as likely to produce a suitable impression on the minds of the Turkish Minister, and of his Colleagues.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN

No. 42

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning

(No. 14.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 3, 1842

I ENCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Colonel Rose, Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN

Inclosure in No. 42

The Earl of Aberdeen to Colonel Rose

(No. 1.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 31, 1842.

I HAVE received your despatches from No. 135 to No. 143 of the 7th of December inclusive.

Her Majesty's Government are glad to perceive that, for the present at least, no serious quarrel exists between the Druses and the Maronites; and they trust that the interference of Mustapha Pasha who has been selected by the Porte to proceed to Syria instead of Yacoub Pasha, will have a salutary effect, not only by bringing about a reconciliation between the rival parties in the Lebanon, but generally by placing affairs in Syria on a better footing as well for the inhabitants as for the Porte.

Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the principle on which you have acted for effecting a settlement of differences between the Druses and the Maronites. They have no desire that you should be the partizan of either of those sects, or should encourage one more than the other to count upon the good-will of the British Government. But you cannot err in stating explicitly to both, that if they wish for that good-will, and conceive that advantage can result to them from possessing it,

convenues. Fidèle à ce principe, l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté a appelé l'attention de la Sublime Porte sur les troubles qui, nonobstant la conclusion de la paix, confirmée depuis par les Six Cabinets, ensanglantent les flancs du Mont Liban, et menacent le nord de leur œuvre pacifique; et la Cour de Londres doit avoir persisté l'envoi à Beirout du Seraskir Mastafa Pacha, au lieu d'envoyer de troupes et muni des pouvoirs nécessaires pour arrêter les cours de mal. En effet, la prise de possession de la ville a suffi pour maintenir la cessation d'hostilités entre les deux camps. Son arrivée sur les lieux. Mais d'autres événements se sont produits. Nous avons vu destituer par une décision subite le Seraskir Elmir Béchir-el-Cassim, qui avait été nommé Gouverneur de la Montagne dans une époque où la situation était calme, et remplacé par le Seraskir Elmir Mustafa Pacha. Nous avons vu que le Seraskir Elmir Mustafa Pacha, qui avait été nommé Gouverneur de la Montagne, a été destitué et remplacé par le Seraskir Elmir Béchir-el-Cassim, qui avait été nommé Gouverneur de la Montagne. Nous avons vu que le Seraskir Elmir Mustafa Pacha, qui avait été nommé Gouverneur de la Montagne, a été destitué et remplacé par le Seraskir Elmir Béchir-el-Cassim, qui avait été nommé Gouverneur de la Montagne.

On ne veut pas jeter une ombre de doute sur les bons motifs qui ont dicté les mesures prises par son Excellence le Seraskir. On veut à croire qu'ils étaient prescrits par l'urgence des circonstances et qu'ils ont été pris dans le but de maintenir la tranquillité et de rétablir l'ordre. Mais ce n'est pas assez d'étancher le sang, ou de tenir les esprits en suspens par l'interposition de quelque nouveauté faite plus à l'occasion que pour satisfaire les esprits à la longue. Il faut que l'œuvre soit plus solide, de plus durable. Il faut que l'œuvre soit plus solide, de plus durable.

Mais ce n'est pas assez d'étancher le sang, ou de tenir les esprits en suspens par l'interposition de quelque nouveauté faite plus à l'occasion que pour satisfaire les esprits à la longue. Il faut que l'œuvre soit plus solide, de plus durable. Il faut que l'œuvre soit plus solide, de plus durable. Mais ce n'est pas assez d'étancher le sang, ou de tenir les esprits en suspens par l'interposition de quelque nouveauté faite plus à l'occasion que pour satisfaire les esprits à la longue. Il faut que l'œuvre soit plus solide, de plus durable. Il faut que l'œuvre soit plus solide, de plus durable.

L'avenir que l'état actuel des choses offre à la vue, ne peut être que triste. Il est à prévoir que, qu'après quelques moments de calme, le mécontentement des tribus éclatera avec nouvelle force. La présente union n'est que la suite de la nomination d'un gouverneur Musulman, dont on ne peut pas réagir contre lui. Le Pacha, attaqué de tous côtés, sera forcé de recourir à des actes de rigueur, qui ne feront qu'alimenter la fureur des montagnards. Il est à concevoir que, poussé par les extrêmes, le Pacha sera forcé de recourir à des actes de rigueur, qui ne feront qu'alimenter la fureur des montagnards.

C'est pour éviter ces malheurs et d'autres qui ne sont pas moins à craindre, que l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté a appelé l'attention de la Sublime Porte sur les troubles qui, nonobstant la conclusion de la paix, confirmée depuis par les Six Cabinets, ensanglantent les flancs du Mont Liban, et menacent le nord de leur œuvre pacifique; et la Cour de Londres doit avoir persisté l'envoi à Beirout du Seraskir Mastafa Pacha, au lieu d'envoyer de troupes et muni des pouvoirs nécessaires pour arrêter les cours de mal. En effet, la prise de possession de la ville a suffi pour maintenir la cessation d'hostilités entre les deux camps. Son arrivée sur les lieux. Mais d'autres événements se sont produits. Nous avons vu destituer par une décision subite le Seraskir Elmir Béchir-el-Cassim, qui avait été nommé Gouverneur de la Montagne dans une époque où la situation était calme, et remplacé par le Seraskir Elmir Mustafa Pacha. Nous avons vu que le Seraskir Elmir Mustafa Pacha, qui avait été nommé Gouverneur de la Montagne, a été destitué et remplacé par le Seraskir Elmir Béchir-el-Cassim, qui avait été nommé Gouverneur de la Montagne.

En quittant le Reis Effendi, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur a eu l'honneur de se rendre chez le Grand Vizir, à qui il a adressé ses respects et lui a remis une lettre de sa part.

A l'un comme à l'autre de ces Ministres vous aurez soin de manifester de ma part l'espoir que le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse m'autorisera à porter à la connaissance de ma Cour, une réponse conforme aux vœux que je viens de lui adresser par votre canal.

Je suis, &c.

(Signé) STRATFORD CANNING

No 47

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 7)

(No. 12)

Constantinople, February 11, 1842

My Lord,

AS the Internuncio is sending an estafette this morning to overtake the post, I avail myself of the opportunity to forward the copies, inclosed herewith, of the several instructions more or less in the sense of mine, addressed by the Austrian and French Ministers, and by the Russian and Prussian Chargés d'Affaires, to their respective interpreters, on the subject of the late change of Government in Mount Lebanon. These papers, including my instructions to M. Pisani, a copy of which is already on its way to your Lordship, have been formally communicated by us with the understanding, on the part of the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, and, by a necessary consequence, of all, that the communication is confidential, and designed only for the convenience of our respective Courts.

I have further to inclose, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of M. Pisani's report of what took place when he read my instruction to the Reis Effendi, and subsequently to the Grand Vizir. It comprises the answer of those Ministers.

Copies of similar reports from the Austrian and Prussian interpreters are also inclosed herewith, those of France and Russia I have not yet received, nor do I know whether it is the intention of M. Titow to communicate the report of his interpreter.

In laying these papers before your Lordship I have but little to remark. The tone and temper of the present Turkish administration are sufficiently apparent from their tenor.

When the Grand Vizir, referring to the promises made to the chiefs and people of Mount Lebanon, confines his admission to those which were addressed to the old ex-Emir Beshir, he appears to have lost sight of the declaration made by Mr. Wood and Commodore Napier in the beginning of the Syrian operations, nor less so of those promises which Mr. Wood was authorized to renew to the Syrian May of last year, as well by the Porte as by three at least of the Representatives of the Allies at Court, and of which I find the accompanying memorandum in the archives of the Embassy.

With respect to what his Highness has advanced concerning the Patriarch of the Maronites, I can only say that it does not agree with the language of his agent, who has urged me by verbal and written representations to exert my influence for the restoration of the old form of Government in Mount Lebanon. As bearing upon this part of the subject, I have made some extracts from a letter addressed by Colonel Ross to Mr. Bankhead on the 18th ultimo, and I beg leave to submit them to your Lordship's particular observation.

Exclusive of the considerations involved in the substitution of a Turkish Pasha for a Christian Prince of the family of Shehab, the personal character of the present Turkish Governor, appointed by Mustapha Pasha, cannot be entirely overlooked. It is enough to state of Omar Pasha that, besides being a renegade and in that respect an object of contempt to the Turks themselves, I am assured that he was tried for peculation in Syria while the Grand Vizir was there, and that his trial issued in a sentence of condemnation.

Before this despatch can arrive in England your Lordship will pro-

bably he in possession of Mr Wood's No. 15, of which a copy is now upon my table, and to that gentleman's report I may safely refer your Lordship for as just an estimate as can be obtained of the views of the Turkish Government in the whole transaction effected by Mustapha Pasha, of the real feelings of the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, and of the eventual consequences likely to result from the recent change.

In justice to Mr. Wood, I must remark, that he alone appears to have had the sagacity to penetrate into the designs of the Porte respecting Syria, before any ill-considered step had been taken by the Seraskier. In a despatch of the 12th ultimo, addressed to Mr. Bankhead, he observes, that the Commissioners appointed to settle the differences between the Christians and Druses, were taking "advantage of their dissensions to encroach upon their rights, and to establish a Turkish officer in Lebanon, in the room of a Christian Prince."

He goes on to say, that the present Grand Vizier, when Seraskier in Syria, had entertained a similar project, and that Nejjib Pasha, of Damascus, was also a firm advocate of the plan; and he continues in the following words, which would seem to be worthy of particular attention:—"Be it so, probably the Druses and Christians, acting ultimately, to oppose this new encroachment on their old rights and usages,—a disposition which they have already betrayed, notwithstanding their late differences,—it would be unprofitable, in a financial point of view, since, to maintain the authority of the Turkish Governor in the Mountains, it would require from 6 to 8,000 troops, the expenses of which would surpass four times the revenue of Lebanon."

Upon the whole, my Lord, I cannot look forward without anxiety and apprehension, to the consequences of the new system adopted by the Porte in Syria, especially when I bear in mind the nature and spirit of Turkish authority, the ordinary character of its agents, and the very peculiar circumstances of the Mountain population. The jealousy, the bigotry, and the impatience of restraint are alike known to all Europe, and amongst whom the religion of Christ has found for ages a precarious, yet noble asylum, towards which the hopes of the good and the devout of more than one country, have of late been turned with peculiar zeal.

I have, &c.,
(signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure 1 in No 47

Instructions from the Baron de Sturmer to Baron Testa

PLUS d'une année s'est écoulée depuis que les efforts des Cours Alliées et le succès dont il a plu à la Providence de les couronner, ont fait rentrer la Sublime Porte en possession de la Syrie. Ces efforts ont été puissamment secondés par les habitants Chrétiens du Liban, qui ont donné, à cette occasion, au Sultan leur Souverain légitime, des preuves de fidélité et de dévouement dont l'histoire conservera le souvenir.

Depuis cette époque, la tâche de la Sublime Porte, rentrée dans la plénitude de ses droits, semblait être devenue facile, car il ne s'agissait plus que de calmer peu à peu l'agitation dans laquelle les événements de la guerre avait jeté les esprits, de venir au secours des populations qui avaient le plus souffert, et de rétablir partout, par une administration sage et paternelle, l'ordre et la paix.

Il n'en a malheureusement pas été ainsi: on a accumulé faute sur faute, et les avertissements cent fois réitérés des Représentans de l'Autriche et de l'Angleterre sur les dangers qu'offrirait un pareil état de choses, s'il devait se prolonger, sont restés sans effet. Je cite de préférence les Représentans de l'Autriche et de l'Angleterre, parceque ces deux Puissances ayant pris la part la plus directe et la plus active aux événements de la Syrie, ont dû se croire plus particulièrement engagées à en consolider le résultat.

Dernièrement enfin, de nouveaux troubles ayant éclaté dans le Liban,

la Sublime Porte se décida à y envoyer le Seraskier Mustapha Pacha, qui devait, me disait-il lui-même, voir, examiner, approfondir la situation de la Syrie, et mettre le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse dans le cas de prendre une détermination analogue aux circonstances. Cette disposition paraissait fort sage et le Pacha, en se rendant à son poste, avait l'espoir d'un avenir plus satisfaisant.

Mais quelle a été ma surprise lorsque j'ai appris que le Seraskier, au lieu d'en appeler au Divan, avait tranché dans le vif et avait tout décidé, d'une manière irrévocable, de sa propre autorité. L'Emir Béchir-el-Cassim, vieillard faible, mais dont les intentions n'avaient jamais été suspectées même par les autorités Ottomanes, et qui, dans la guerre de Syrie, avait rendu à la Sublime Porte, par sa bravoure et son dévouement, les plus éminens services, fut arrêté, destitué, privé de sa décoration, envoyé ici comme un délinquant, et remplacé par un Pacha Musulman.

Certes, je ne me permettrai point de contester à la Sublime Porte le droit de faire dans ses Etats tels changemens qu'elle juge nécessaires ou utiles, mais le cas dont il s'agit est tout-à-fait exceptionnel. Un pays habité par des Chrétiens (les Druses n'y sont relativement qu'en petit nombre), et gouverné depuis un temps immémorial par un Prince Chrétien, a été rendu à la Sublime Porte à l'aide des armes des Puissances Chrétiennes. A vouloir changer tout d'un coup cet état de choses et substituer au Prince Chrétien un Pacha Turc, n'est-ce pas agir dans un sens diamétralement opposé aux vrais intérêts du Gouvernement Ottoman qu'aux égards qu'il doit à ces Puissances? C'est sur quoi je crois de mon devoir d'appeler son attention, et c'est dans ce but que je lui fais la présente communication.

Il appartiendra à ma Cour de s'expliquer sur la manière dont elle envisage cet événement, mais, en attendant qu'elle me fasse connaître ses intentions, je voudrais avoir la satisfaction de lui annoncer que la Sublime Porte ne considère pas les mesures prises par Mustapha Pacha comme définitives, mais comme un simple essai, que, je le crains, le temps et l'expérience lui prouveront bientôt ne pas répondre à son attente.

Vous voudrez bien, M. le Baron, faire lecture à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la présente communication, et pendant lui en laisser copie, et vous rendre compte de ce que le Grand Vizir dans le même but. MM. les Représentans d'Angleterre, de France, de Russie, et de Prusse, se proposant de tenir au Gouvernement Ottoman un langage conforme au mien pour le fond, et ne différant que par les nuances de nos positions respectives, il a été convenu entre nous, que, de deux heures à deux heures et 25 heures à la Porte, afin de s'acquitter de nos messages simultanément. Toutefois, comme il ne s'agit pas d'une démarche collective, ils éviteront d'entrer ensemble et ne se présenteront chez Sarim Effendi et chez le Grand Vizir que l'un après l'autre.

Inclosure 2 in No 47

Instructions from the Baron de Bourqueney to his Interpreter

Monsieur,

VOUS vous rendrez chez son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et vous lui direz que, dès le début de ma mission, j'avais été chargé par mon Gouvernement d'appeler la plus sérieuse attention du Ministère Ottoman sur l'anarchie qui désolait alors la province du Liban.

Ensuite, vous lui exposerez les principes de la Sublime Porte, en invoquant les principes et les règles de l'éternelle justice pour des raisons de leur fidélité, mon Gouvernement avait la conscience de n'adresser, par mon organe, à la Sublime Porte, qu'un conseil puisé dans ses véritables intérêts.

Vous direz que j'avais vu avec une vive satisfaction la Sublime Porte investir de ses pouvoirs un Commissaire Extraordinaire dans le

soit même de ses Conseils, et mettre à sa disposition des forces suffisantes pour rétablir l'ordre sur une base solide et durable.

Vous ajouterez, que je savais la difficulté de la tâche imposée au Seraskir, et qu'il ne m'appartenait en aucune façon d'indiquer les moyens les plus propres à atteindre le but que se propose la Sublime Porte.

Mais vous n'avez pu vous empêcher d'exprimer à mes vœux si je ne témoignais pas la surprise douloureuse que j'ai éprouvée, en apprenant que la première mesure de Mustapha Pacha avait été le rétablissement de la balance d'une famille en possession séculaire du Gouvernement de la Montagne.

Vous annoncerez à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, que j'ai demandé les ordres de mon Gouvernement, mais que je suis certain de devancer ses instructions en appelant toute la sollicitude du Ministère Ottoman sur la carrière de difficultés qu'ouvriraient devant lui une atteinte aussi funeste portée au vœu des populations, en la substitution permanente d'un régime nouveau, d'une forme d'autorité nouvelle, à des habitudes de soumission traditionnelle.

Vous direz que je ne me fais pas juge des circonstances locales sous l'empire desquelles ont eu lieu les premiers actes de Mustapha Pacha, vous ajouterez que ces actes ne prendraient un caractère permanent, en définitif, qu'après avoir traversé une sphère plus élevée du pouvoir, et vous exprimerez enfin, à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, l'espérance qu'en ne leur attribuant qu'un caractère provisoire, en les considérant comme une mesure de transition au retour vers un ordre de choses qui peut seul amener le repos des provinces du Liban, j'apprecie la situation, et que le Gouvernement est déjà confirmé par la haute sagesse des Ministres qui président aux destinées de l'Empire.

En sortant de chez son Excellence Sarim Effendi, vous vous rendrez chez le Grand Vizir, et vous donnerez à son Altesse lecture de la présente instruction.

Incluse 3 in No. 47

Instructions from M. de Titow to Prince Handjery

St. Pétersbourg, 1842

LES dernières nouvelles du Mont Liban annoncent que la paix y est rétablie pour le moment par les soins éclairés de son Excellence le Seraskir Mustapha Pacha. C'est un résultat dont tous les amis sincères de la Sublime Porte ne peuvent que se féliciter vivement, dans l'intérêt de la consolidation du pouvoir légitime de Sa Hautesse en Syrie. J'ai appris en même temps la disposition adoptée par le Seraskir pour confier le soin de gouverner la Montagne à Omar Pacha. Ce choix aura sans doute été suggéré par les meilleures intentions. Mais, à la longue, il est permis de craindre qu'il ne laisse une impression fâcheuse parmi les habitants, qui, sous le régime précédent, ont été gouvernés par des chefs indigènes, et à l'époque où la Syrie fut évacuée par les troupes égyptiennes, la Sublime Porte a donné l'espérance d'y respecter les anciens droits de ses sujets, et d'assurer aux Chrétiens de tous les rites une protection pour le moins aussi efficace que celle dont ils jouissaient jusqu'alors. Aujourd'hui de la Syrie, les Chrétiens continuent à se trouver dans un état d'inquiétude et de méfiance, et les Druses, au contraire, se sentent encouragés à méditer de nouveaux empiétements.

Ces antécédents et ces motifs donneraient lieu d'espérer que l'arrangement actuel n'est que provisoire, et que les mesures convenables seront bientôt adoptées sous les auspices souverains de la Sublime Porte, pour établir le Gouvernement local du Mont Liban sur un pied conforme aux anciens usages de ses peuples et aux espérances qu'on leur avait données.

Je vous prie, par conséquent, mon Prince, de vous rendre chez son Excellence Sarim Effendi et chez son Altesse le Grand Vizir, pour leur communiquer de vive voix les réflexions exposées dans la présente instruc-

tion. La Sublime Porte se fera un plaisir de se préoccuper de la même considération, comme un effet du zèle qui anime les amis de la Sublime Porte pour tout ce qui sert à consolider le pouvoir souverain de Sa Hautesse en Syrie.

Incluse 4 in No. 47

Instructions from M. de Wagner to his Dragoman

Monsieur,

Péra, ce 10 Février, 1842

J'AI vu par les derniers rapports du Consul du Roi à Beirout que, par suite des mesures prises par le Seraskir Mustapha Pacha, les troubles qui affligeaient les habitants des Montagnes du Liban ont été momentanément apaisés.

Le Gouvernement du Roi, notre Auguste Maître, vu l'intérêt bienveillant qu'il voue au bien-être et à la tranquillité de ces contrées, qui ont eu à supporter des vicissitudes si nombreuses et si douloureuses, apprendra, j'en suis sûr, cette nouvelle avec la plus vive satisfaction.

La nomination d'Omar Pacha à la place de l'Emir Bechir-el-Kassim était peut-être une mesure dictée par la nécessité du moment, et propre à arrêter l'effusion du sang; mais les Gouverneurs des Montagnes du Liban n'ayant pu jusqu'ici obtenir le repos des populations, les chefs et des notables du pays, la Sublime Porte, en réglant définitivement l'administration de la Montagne, aura sans doute égard aux anciennes institutions locales, et aux engagements qu'elle a pris, lors de l'évacuation de la Syrie par les troupes égyptiennes envers les populations de ces contrées, et j'aime à croire qu'elle voudra bien me fournir des éclaircissements à ce sujet, afin que je puisse les porter à la connaissance du Gouvernement du Roi.

R. WAGNER
Signé

Incluse 5 in No. 47

M. Pisani to Sir Stratford Canning

Excellence,

Péra, ce 10 Février, 1842

J'AI l'honneur de faire savoir à votre Excellence, que j'ai, conformément à ses ordres, vu Sarim Effendi, ainsi que son Altesse le Grand Vizir, et que je leur ai communiqué vos instructions en date d'aujourd'hui.

Sarim Effendi, voyant de quoi il s'agissait, m'a dit qu'il n'avait pas le temps de m'entendre et qu'il devait rentrer dans la chambre du conseil d'où il n'était sorti que pour un instant. Mais ce n'était là qu'un prétexte; parceque je voyais bien, par certains mots qu'il laissait échapper, que le sujet des instructions lui faisait de la peine.

Cependant, sur quelques observations que je lui ai faites convenablement, il a consenti à entendre la lecture en Turc des instructions de votre Excellence. J'ai su depuis de mes collègues MM. les Dragomans d'Autriche, de France, de Prusse, et de Russie, qu'ils ont essuyé les mêmes difficultés de la part du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

Quoiqu'il en soit, Sarim Effendi a entendu la lecture de vos instructions, mais il s'est borné à dire qu'il les a parfaitement comprises, et qu'il fera une réponse, après avoir pris les ordres de son Gouvernement. Mais la promesse d'une réponse était faite de manière à ne laisser aucun doute qu'elle ne fût défavorable.

A l'issue du Conseil des Ministres et des Pachas, je suis entré chez le Grand Vizir, à côté duquel j'ai trouvé Sarim Effendi, qui n'a pas dit un seul mot pendant mon entrevue avec son Altesse.

Le Grand Vizir après avoir entendu avec attention les instructions de votre Excellence a pris la parole dans les termes suivants —

" Lorsque les troubles ont éclaté en Syrie, nous avons été conseillés par les Puissances voisines de prendre les mesures propres à y rétablir la tranquillité. C'est dans ce but que nous y avons envoyé le Séraskir Pacha. Lorsque celui-ci arriva à Beirout, il y rassembla les notables des habitants des Montagnes. Ceux-ci ont représenté que l'Emir Bechir-el-Kassim était un homme si incapable, le gouverneur, que c'était à son incapacité qu'il fallait même attribuer les troubles et les hostilités qui avaient affligé le pays; ils ont déclaré que jamais la tranquillité ne pourrait s'établir solidement parmi les populations des Montagnes, tant que le Prince du Mont Liban serait choisi parmi les Montagnards; ils ont demandé la déposition de l'Emir Bechir-el-Kassim, et ils ont supplié la Sublime Porte, et de vive voix et par pétitions, de leur faire la faveur de nommer pour Gouverneur du Mont Liban un de ses propres employés. Or, comme il n'y a pas de moyens plus propres à établir le bon ordre et la tranquillité parmi les populations que d'accorder les demandes qu'elles font, elle s'est vue obligée de leur donner satisfaction." —

" Vous me parlez des privilèges; les seuls dont j'ai connaissance sont ceux que l'Amiral Stopford et moi-même avons accordés sous notre signature au ci-devant Emir Bechir-el-Chéhab, s'il se soumettait à l'autorité du Sultan dans un délai de douze jours. On lui assurait, dans ce cas, sa fortune, son poste de Prince du Mont Liban, et ses prérogatives. Mais cet Emir n'a pas fait sa soumission dans le délai donné; malgré cela, je lui ai accordé quatre jours de plus. Mais, contre mon avis, on s'est empressé de remettre à l'Emir Bechir-el-Kassim le firman qui le nommait Prince. Celui-ci se trouve, dites-vous, privé de sa décoration et de sa fortune. Quant à sa décoration, il a dû en être privé, car n'étant que la marque distinctive de son poste, il ne pouvait plus la conserver après sa déposition; et, pour sa fortune, si on la lui a enlevée, il n'a qu'à recourir, pour ne faire rendre justice, à la Commission établie à Deir-el-Kammer pour les réclamations réciproques des deux parties." —

" L'état actuel des choses n'exige aucun changement. Cependant si par la suite, il devient nécessaire d'opérer un changement dans le Gouvernement du Mont Liban, la Sublime Porte, ayant affaire à ses propres sujets, prendra à leur égard les mesures qui seront jugées les plus convenables pour opérer un changement." —

J'ai demandé au Grand Vizir si, par un changement, il entendait la nomination d'un Gouverneur pris parmi les tribus, et il m'a répondu affirmativement.

J'ai &c.,
(Signé) F. PISANI

Inclosure 6 in No 47

Baron Testa to the Baron de Sturmer

Pera, ce 10 Février, 1842.

JE me suis rendu aujourd'hui à la Porte pour m'acquiescer auprès du Ministère Ottoman des instructions dont votre Excellence m'avait chargé.

M. Pisani, qui était entré avant moi chez Sarim Effendi, me dit en sortant, que ce Ministre avait été tellement effarouché des premiers mots de son message, qu'il avait refusé de l'écouter, en disant que les Puissances Etrangères n'avaient pas le droit de s'ingérer dans les affaires intérieures de la Porte. Ce ne fut qu'à grand peine que le premier Drogman d'Angleterre parvint à lui lire la pièce dont il était porteur.

J'entrai donc chez Sarim Effendi, préparé à avoir avec lui des explications fort peu agréables. Je le trouvai debout et n'ayant pas encore eu le temps de se calmer. Il fit aussi quelques difficultés de m'écouter, alléguant qu'il devait retourner au Conseil, d'où il n'était sorti que pour peu d'instans. Ce ne fut qu'au moyen de quelques observations sérieuses, et après une sorte de combat, que je réussis à lui faire écouter la traduction de mon instruction. Il ne put me cacher l'impression fâcheuse que

lui fit ma communication, mais, pressé par moi de me donner une réponse, il me dit qu'il porterait mon message à la connaissance des Ministres, et qu'il m'informerait ensuite de leur réponse.

C'est aussi de cette manière qu'il s'est expliqué envers mes Collègues.

Le Grand Vizir nous reçut immédiatement après la fin du Conseil. Je le trouvai seul avec Sarim Effendi et lui lus l'instruction écrite dont j'étais chargé. Il m'écouta avec beaucoup de calme et avec une patience qui ressemblait à de la résignation. Ensuite il me répondit à peu près dans ces termes —

M. l'Internonce nous a fait en dernier lieu, des représentations réitérées sur la nécessité de prendre des mesures énergiques pour rétablir l'ordre et la tranquillité en Syrie. Appréhant la gravité des circonstances et les conseils de ses amis, la Sublime Porte y a expédié dernièrement le Séraskir Mustapha Pacha avec les pouvoirs nécessaires pour arranger les affaires et pacifier le pays en conciliant tous les intérêts. Ce Séraskir s'est convaincu par lui-même et par les déclarations de tous les habitants, que les malheurs actuels de la Syrie provenaient de l'incapacité de l'Emir Bechir-el-Kassim. En demandant l'éloignement de ce Prince, tous les partis se mirent d'accord pour supplier la Sublime Porte, par des adresses remises au Séraskir, de leur donner pour Prince un fonctionnaire Musulman. C'est ce qui détermina Mustapha Pacha à nommer Omar Pacha Emir de la Montagne. Un Gouvernement peut-il mieux pourvoir à la tranquillité et au bien-être d'un pays, qu'en satisfaisant au vœu unanime des populations, et en éloignant toutes les causes de mécontentement et de désordre? — Or, c'est précisément ce que vient de faire la Sublime Porte; et la tranquillité qui règne maintenant en Syrie, justifie pleinement la décision qu'elle a prise. Tant qu'Omar Pacha saura répondre à la confiance souveraine, il n'y aura pas lieu à le changer. Si, au contraire, il se montrait, par la suite, incapable de bien administrer le pays, la Sublime Porte, agissant d'après les circonstances, aura soin de le remplacer par un autre Prince, soit Musulman, soit Chrétien." —

(Signé) H. TESTA

Inclosure 7 in No 47

The Prussian Druggman to M. de Wagner

M. le Conseiller,

Pera, ce 10 Février, 1842.

M. STIEPOWICH se trouvant retenu chez lui à cause d'une indisposition, je me suis rendu ce matin, conformément à vos ordres, à la Porte pour vous remettre l'Excellence du Grand Vizir et du Grand Vizir le contenu de l'instruction que vous avez bien voulu adresser en date d'aujourd'hui au premier Drogman de la Mission du Roi. Les Drogmans des autres Missions étant arrivés avant moi à la Porte, je suis entré après eux chez Sarim Effendi. Je lui ai fait la lecture de l'instruction en question dont j'avais préparé d'avance la traduction. Sarim Effendi, après l'avoir écoutée, me dit: "Je n'ai aucune réponse à vous donner pour aujourd'hui, et je ne pourrai le faire qu'après avoir référé aux autres Ministres de la Porte." Je me renais alors avec mes Collègues chez le Grand Vizir, chez lequel je suis entré à mon tour; je l'ai trouvé en compagnie de Sarim Effendi et de l'Amédji du Divan. Ismet Mehmed Pacha termina le premier la conversation, il me laissa les autres Drogmans des autres Missions l'avaient déjà informé de l'objet de ma visite, et me pria de lui dire seulement en résumé le contenu de mon instruction. Après en avoir écouté la lecture, il reprit: "L'objet de la commission dont vous êtes chargé n'est-il pas le rétablissement de l'ordre et de la tranquillité dans les Montagnes du Liban?" Eh bien, s'il est tel, je dois vous répondre que dans ce même but la Sublime Porte a envoyé dans ces contrées Mustapha Pacha auquel les habitants du Liban ont demandé la destitution de l'Emir Bechir-el-Kassim comme incapable

de gouverner; ils ont déclaré en même temps à Mustapha Pacha que, tant que le Gouverneur du Liban sera pris parmi les indigènes, il y aura toujours des désordres, à cause de l'esprit de parti et des dissensions intestines, et ils ont sollicité la Sublime Porte de leur donner un Gouverneur qui ne fût pas choisi parmi eux. La Sublime Porte a cru ne pouvoir mieux faire que d'acquiescer aux vœux exprimés par les habitants mêmes de ces contrées. Grâce à Dieu, depuis la nomination d'Omar Pacha, l'ordre a été rétabli dans le Liban; mais si, ce qu'à Dieu ne plaise, il venait à être de nouveau troublé, alors la Sublime Porte avisera aux moyens nécessaires, et remplacera Omar Pacha par un autre Gouverneur, qui sera, selon les exigences du moment, ou élu et choisi comme jusqu'ici parmi les indigènes, ou l'on nommera à cette place un autre dignitaire de l'empire."

"Votre Altesse me permettra de lui demander," repris-je, "si effectivement tous les habitants du Liban ont demandé la déposition de l'Emir Béchir-el-Cawim, et son remplacement par un Gouverneur qui ne fût pas choisi parmi les indigènes?" Le Grand Vizir garda le silence avant Sarim Effendi. Celui-ci prit alors la parole, et dit: "Oui, certainement, tous l'ont demandé, et les documents qui le constatent existent à la Porte." "Vous pouvez les montrer," reprit le Grand Vizir. "Il y a même des lettres de remerciemens," dit alors Sarim Effendi, "de la part du Patriarche des Maronites, des Chefs des Druses, et de ceux des autres peuplades."

Je suis, &c.,
Signé) T. BOSGIOVICH

Inclosure 8 in No. 47

Memorandum of the Propositions made to the Sublime Porte respecting Syria.

AT a Conference of their Excellencies the Viscounts Palmerston, Russell, and M. Talbot, it was agreed upon that the following five propositions should be made to the Sublime Porte.

1. That the Turkish Government should execute faithfully the promises it made to the Syrians of re-establishing their ancient rights and privileges in the event that they returned to their allegiance, &c.

The Sublime Porte has declared formerly its intention of doing so. Instructions and orders will be transmitted to its officers to allow the Syrians and particularly the Christians to enjoy the rights and privileges they enjoyed during the Egyptian Administration, with such modifications as the Turkish law requires.

2. That the Turkish Government should be persuaded to remit all illegal taxes in Syria, as well as all such taxes as were with justice obnoxious to the people.

The Sublime Porte had already transmitted instructions to the above effect; but as it does not appear that they were properly understood, a new Defterdar has been appointed with extraordinary powers to examine into the complaints of the Syrians, remit all illegal taxation, and report his opinion with regard to what ought further to be done to relieve them from unnecessary burdens, &c.

3. That as the Emir Beshir and the Maronite Patriarch requested each to have a Kapou Kiaya, the Sublime Porte should be prevailed upon to accede to their request.

The Sublime Porte has complied with their demand, and each is to have his agent to communicate direct with the Ottoman Ministers.

4. That a Ferik should be appointed to the government of Jerusalem, for the special protection of the Christians, &c.

The Sublime Porte has consented to make this special appointment for the tranquillity and happiness of its Rayah subjects, &c.

5. That the Sublime Porte should be induced to reward the Sheiks and other individuals who served faithfully during the war

The Sublime Porte has given a list of the individuals to be rewarded to his Excellency the Defterdar with strict orders to reward them on his arrival in Syria.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Therapia, May 12, 1841

Inclosure 9 in No. 47

Colonel Ross to Mr. Bankhead

January 10, 1842.

(Extract.)

THE Christians urged that the Sublime Porte had been pleased to promise them that they should be governed by a Christian Prince. The difference of opinion between Mustapha Pasha and the Christians has become so great, that the Christians wished to avail themselves of the right allowed them by the Sublime Porte, to address an Ardim Mahdar to the sovereign on the subject of their governor, but Mustapha Pasha's representatives have intimated them that his Excellency is Mustakim, Plenipotentiary, and that he will forward to some petition.

Further attempts have been made to induce the Christians to sign a paper, requesting the Seraskier to name a governor over them, that is a Turkish one over the mountain. And yesterday, a few of the Feurs here present did so, but only in terms which regarded themselves personally. I send you a copy of it. You will see how guarded it is. I understand that these same persons will sign a general petition of Christians for a Christian prince.

Mustapha Pasha overcame the most strenuous opponents, the representatives of the clergy, by placing them out of the list of persons qualified to act in worldly affairs. The Seraskier wrote, on the occasion of a report having been spread that he intended to make a prisoner of the patriarch with two hundred horse to his residence, to state that he had never intended so to act, but in the letter he twice warned the Patriarch to abstain for the future, from politics, and to obey Omar Pasha—and he made the same intimations to Bishop Tubia and Father John, representatives of the clergy now here.

No. 48

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 15.)

No. 14.
My Lord,

Constantinople, February 16, 1842

IT has come to my knowledge, through a secret but accurate channel, information that the Grand Vizier has prepared a despatch to the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha, appointing him of the dissolution expressed by the Representatives of the Five Powers, at the recent arrangement for the administration of Mount Lebanon, and announcing the determination of the Porte to persist in maintaining that arrangement, at least for the present, and directing him to employ his best exertions for procuring the tranquillity of the country and obtaining from the Maronite primates a declaration of their acquiescence in the measures adopted by the Seraskier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

N

P.S.—The language held by the Reis Effendi to the agent of the Maronites, does not agree with that of the Grand Vizier as expressed above. Your Lordship will perceive the difference on referring to the memorandum inclosed herewith, of Sarim Effendi's answer to that agent's application on behalf of the interests of his tribe in Syria. There is but too much reason to apprehend, that the language held by the Grand Vizier, expresses the real intentions of the Porte, in further elucidation of which I also inclose an extract, in translation, of the Turkish official gazette published this morning.

S. C.

Inclosure 1 in No. 48

Memorandum of the answer of the Reis Effendi to the application of the Agent of the Maronites on behalf of the interests of his tribe

LE Drogman des Agens Maronites s'étant présenté hier, 15 du courant, à la Porte au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, Sarim Effendi, pour avoir une réponse à la requête qui lui avait été précédemment remise de la part des dits Agens, ce Ministre lui dit :—

“Les Maronites ont tort d'être inquiets sur les desseins de la Sublime Porte à leur égard. Elle n'a en vue que leur tranquillité et leur bien-être ainsi que celui de tous ses autres sujets. Quant à la nomination que Mustapha Pacha a fait dernièrement d'Omar Pacha, pour Gouverneur du Liban, elle n'est qu'une mesure temporaire exigée par les circonstances, eu égard à l'excitation des Druses. Au surplus, les agens des Maronites peuvent écrire à leurs compatriotes d'être parfaitement tranquilles et d'attendre l'effet des bonnes intentions de la Porte envers eux.”

Co 16 Février, 1842.

Inclosure 2 in No. 48

Translation of an Article from the Turkish Official Gazette of February 13, 1842

IT has been before stated at length, that certain dissensions and troubles having arisen between the Druse and Maronite inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, and that they had come to blows; as His Highness the Sultan therefore, has nothing more at heart than the welfare of all his subjects, of which the Druses and Maronites equally form a part, he was pleased to confer upon the Seraskier Pasha a special appointment for the purpose of dispelling the troubles, and restoring the desired security of that country. According to the reports received from his Excellency, those dissensions have now been completely settled, and the tranquillity of the country is now as before. The Seraskier Pasha has, in virtue of the full power committed to him, appointed Omar Pasha, one of his Livas, to be Prince of the Mountain. Thanks, therefore, be to God, that that country having been thus freed from the dissensions which reigned in it, and enjoying the same peace which generally prevails throughout His Majesty's dominions.

we are bound to offer up our prayers for the preservation of His Majesty's life

Therefore, is this article inserted for general information.

No. 49

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 16.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 16, 1842.

REFERRING to my despatch No. 12, relative to the affairs of Mount Lebanon, I have now to forward to your Lordship, in completion of the statement which I then made, the accompanying copies of the reports of the French and Russian Dragomans addressed by them to their respective Ministers.

I think it advisable also to submit to your Lordship a copy of the communication which I made upon the same subject to Colonel Rose, immediately after we received the answer of the Grand Vizier to our several messages thereon. The Austrian and French Ministers, as well as the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, wrote in a similar sense, though with some shades of difference in the expression, to their respective Consuls. I also addressed a despatch of the same purport to Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus.

The object of these communications, as your Lordship will perceive on a perusal of mine, was to obviate the possible effect of any exaggerated reports of our proceedings here upon the tranquillity of the population of Mount Lebanon, and conceiving it, therefore, to be of importance that our statements should reach Syria with the least delay, I applied to Captain Stewart, of Her Majesty's ship “Benbow,” to forward them direct to Beyrout, by means of the steam-vessel lying at Suda, and, with this application, I trust that he has by this time complied.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure 1 in No. 49

M. Cor to the Baron de Bourquency

M. le Baron.

Paris, le 10 Février, 1842

AUJOURD'HUI à deux heures et demie, j'étais, conformément aux ordres de votre Excellence, réuni à la Porte à mes collègues les Dragomans d'Angleterre, d'Autriche, de Prusse, et de Russie.

Le Drogman d'Angleterre, suivant l'ordre convenu, est entré le premier chez le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

A son retour il nous a raconté la résistance que son Excellence Sarim Effendi lui avait opposée pour ne pas entendre la communication qu'il était chargé de faire.

Le Drogman d'Autriche lui a succédé; il lui a fallu également quelques efforts pour lire son instruction dans toute son étendue.

Introduit à mon tour chez le Ministre, j'ai été prié par lui de résumer en quelques mots le sens de mes instructions. J'ai répondu que je ne pouvais le faire sans avoir lu la communication.

Son Excellence Sarim Effendi s'est résigné à m'entendre.

Je n'avais pas encore achevé ma lecture lorsque le Drogman d'Angleterre, que Sarim Effendi avait fait redemander avant que je n'entrasse dans son Cabinet, s'est présenté. Sarim Effendi lui a dit alors qu'il avait bien compris le sens de la communication; qu'il n'avait pas besoin de plus

écrite (il avait en effet demandé à M. Pizani dans sa première entrevue de déposer copie de ses instructions, et M. Pizani avait répondu qu'il ne pouvait le faire sans ordre de son Ambassadeur), qu'on ne voulait qu'une réponse, qu'elle serait donnée.

J'ai terminé la lecture de l'instruction de votre Excellence, et M. Pisanî étant encore présent, Sarim Effendi a dit, "Je ne puis donner aucune réponse avant de savoir quelles sont les intentions de mon Gouvernement."

Nous nous sommes ensuite rendus chez le Grand Vixir, malgré les observations de Sarim Effendi pour nous en dissuader. Nous sommes entrés dans le même ordre.

À la communication que je lui ai faite, le Grand Vizir, rappelant ce qu'il avait dit à mes collègues, a répondu : —

"Le pays dont il s'agit appartenant au Sultan, nous ne pouvions avoir d'autre but que la satisfaction des populations et le rétablissement de la tranquillité. C'est là seulement ce que nous nous sommes proposé. Si, ce qu'à Dieu ne plaise, nos espérances étaient trompées, il n'y a pas de doute que nous ne prissions les mesures nécessaires pour affermir l'ordre et la paix."

Je suis, &c.,
(Signé) M. J. COR.

Inclosure 2 in No. 49.

Prince Handjery to M. de Titov.

Pera, le 2 Janvier, 1842.

JE me suis rendu aujourd'hui à la Porte pour m'acquitter du message dont vous avez bien voulu me charger par votre instruction de jour No 50, concernant le nom d'Ismail Pacha au poste de Gouverneur du Mont Liban. Sarim Effendi se trouvant au conseil tenu chez le Grand Vizir, j'ai été obligé d'attendre qu'il rentrât dans ses appartemens pour le voir. Je lui ai donné lecture du contenu de votre instruction dont j'avais préparé une traduction en Turc. Ce Ministre s'est borné à me dire, qu'il ignorait absolument la nomination d'Ismail Pacha etait prov. ou non, qu'il entretenait ses Collègues de cette communication et qu'il me donnerait plus tard une réponse verbale ou par écrit.

En sortant de chez moi, j'ai été chez le Grand Vizir, que j'ai vu à l'issue du Conseil, en présence de Sarim Effendi.

Lorsque je m'ai rendu compte de l'objet de notre communication, j'en ai eu de la surprise. Mais, comme j'ai vu que vous en aviez fait l'objet de votre communication, j'ai dû me dire que vous en aviez eu l'idée. C'est pourquoi j'ai dû me dire que vous en aviez eu l'idée. C'est pourquoi j'ai dû me dire que vous en aviez eu l'idée.

« L'émir » répondit-il : « permettez-moi de vous rappeler qu'à l'époque où les troubles ont éclaté en Syrie, les Légations des Puissances amicales et de Russie parmi le nombre, nous ont conseillé de prendre des mesures promptes et énergiques pour rétablir, ces troubles et sans délai, les troubles, y rétablir l'ordre, et assurer le repos et la tranquillité des habitants. Nous avons suivi ce conseil en y envoyant, en qualité de commissaire extraordinaire un personnage éminent tel que le Sécrétaire. Vous avez tous applaudi à ce choix, et, en effet, par ses sages soins, tout est rentré dans l'ordre dans la Montagne. Immédiatement après, les Cheiks, les Emirs, et les Chefs de tous les partis lui ont adressé des Ar-Mahzars, pour lui représenter l'incapacité et la faiblesse de caractère du dernier Emir El-Kassim, auquel ils attribuaient même en grande partie les fautes commises et les causes des troubles par suite de son impéritie, et ils finissaient par dire que, prévoyant qu'une parfaite tranquillité ne

pourrait être rétablie chez eux aussi longtems que le Chef qui les administrait, était choisi parmi eux, et priait la Porte d'en nommer un de sa part pris parmi ses fonctionnaires. C'est à la suite de cette demande unanime des montagnards eux-mêmes qu'Omar Pacha a été nommé. Je vous demande, continu-t-il, n'est-ce pas rétablir l'ordre et la tranquillité dans un pays et contenter les habitans, que d'accueillir favorablement leur demande et d'accéder à ses vœux. Aussi n'avons-nous aucun motif pour changer cet état de choses conforme aux desirs des habitans." "A la vérité," si je observe "ce changement pourrait naître parmi eux de nouveaux motifs de désordre."—"Alors," répondit le Grand Vizir, "nous aviserons, d'après les circonstances, aux mesures à prendre. Si Omar Pacha se montre incapable de gouverner, s'il ne réussit pas à contenter les populations, Sa Hautesse nommera un autre de ses serviteurs à sa place." "Mais il s'agit," ajoutai-je, "de l'usage observé jusqu'à présent pour Chef de la Montagne un des indigènes." "C'est à elle se présente et qu'il faille changer Omar Pacha," dit le Grand Vizir, "Sa Hautesse nommera indifféremment ou un des indigènes ou un autre, tous sont également ses sujets et ses serviteurs."

En finissant, il me fit de fortes protestations sur les intentions bien-
veillantes dont Sa Hautesse, ainsi que les Ministres, étaient animés
en faveur de tous ses sujets indistinctement, tant Chrétiens que Musul-
mans, et me priant de vous transmettre ces assurances, ainsi que sa
réponse à la communication que nous lui avons faite.

L'édredou Pisani a eu la complaisance de me dire, que lorsqu'il a fait à ce sujet une communication analogue à Sarim Effendi, ce Ministre en a été péniblement frappé, et commença par lui déclarer qu'il ne pouvait pas admettre une pareille communication; que les Puissances étrangères n'avaient pas le droit de se mêler des affaires intérieures de l'Empire, que ce serait exposer un acte de présomption.

treinte d'agir comme elle l'entendait. Ce n'est qu'après les observations énergiques que M. F. Piquet lui a faites sur la fâcheuse impression que produirait son refus de prendre connaissance d'une communication faite de la part de l'Ambassadeur Britannique, que ce Ministre se laissa persuader, mais se borna à dire qu'il avait retenu parfaitement le sens de la communication, qu'il avait compris de quoi il s'agissait qu'il en rendrait compte, et qu'il donnerait ensuite une réponse à M.

Inclusion 3 in No. 49

Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Ruse

Sir, Constantinople, February 11, 1842.

I HAVE received the despatches which you addressed to Mr. Bankhead relative to the removal of the Emir Beshir-el-Cassim, and the Mount Lebanon. Mr. Bankhead has also put into my hands your letter marked private, and dated the 18th of January.

Since his arrival here, I do not understand that the ex-Emir Beshir has experienced any further ill-treatment from the Porte; and, although I am not surprised at his removal from the high station which he appears to have filled so inadequately, I cannot but take an interest in his fate, and feel disposed to render him any assistance in my power towards the recovery of his fortune, and his restoration as a private individual to the land of his birth and connexion.

A greater interest than what relates to his person is, however, invested in the recent changes effected by Mustapha Pasha. I am fully

I am, &c,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

No. 50

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Enclosure 1 in No. 50

The Ex-Emir Becher-el-Cazim to Sir Stratford Canning

(Translation)

After Titles and Compliments.

January 31, 1843

Trusting you will grant our request, &c.

(Signed) **BESHIR SHEHAB**

Petition presented by the Emir Beshir-el Kassim to the Grand Vizier

(Translation.)

WE humbly make known to your Highness, that we your servant from the time we received the royal firman nominating us to honourable service, have acted according to the obligations of our allegiance, and with all obedience and due respect.

We have done all in our power, according to the best of our ability, to act up to the wishes of the Sublime Porte, may the Lord of creatures protect and cherish it.

With the assistance of the Most High God, and presence of your Highness, the Egyptian troops were without difficulty driven from Syria, and every success obtained, as is well known to your Highness. After this, I remained in the field for about five months, but returned to the mountains, upon your servant receiving an order to that effect. We then proceeded to the mountains, and prevented any further passage through the country, and secured the tranquillity of the inhabitants in conformity with the Imperial mandate, which was obeyed, and I have ever continued to act up to it.

When the Royal mandate was received, ordering that certain measures should be taken for ameliorating the condition of the people and the country, the inhabitants of the mountains were assembled, and the Royal edict was read, and the Council resolved to act up to it. Afterwards their Excellencies Mahomed Resad Pasha and Mustajir Pasha assembled the Chiefs of the mountains, who determined in their Excellencies' presence, not to pay to the Government, though they declared that, as servants of the Sublime Porte, they had the right of levying a tax upon the people, and that they could not accede to the orders (of the Sublime Porte), and to the regulations about paying tribute.

Your servant then spoke, in the presence of their Excellencies, to the following effect,—that it was urgent upon them to act in all matters, in conformity with the Royal and just mandates, and that every one should pay according to his means as was required in the Supreme mandate, thus, my counsel, not being listened to, we went together to Beyrout, and to the Divan of Saida, at which the Mushir presided. It was then determined to pay 3,500 purses of tribute. After which decision, your servant was obliged to go to Deir-el-Kammar, to give orders about collecting this tax, and there, as soon as it became known, the Chiefs of the mountains were disposed to resist in a violent manner, your servant petitioned the Mushir to send some troops from Beyrout and Saida to terrify the afore-mentioned rebels; his Excellency promised to accede to my wishes, but did not keep his promise. After this the Mushir came to the palace of your servant in Deir-el-Kammar, and I again begged his Excellency, on many occasions, to reinforce us with a battalion of troops, to assist in collecting promptly the taxes and to prevent rebellion,—our counsels were not listened to, and for this reason the rebels, who were already in arms, were encouraged, and what followed of plunder, massacre, and destruction of property. We then again supplicated the Mushir for succour, which, if he had given, tranquillity would have been restored, and the flame of war extinguished. Our petition was not listened to, and we were besieged and held our ground for many days. At last, your servant, seeing that the Chiefs of the Druses having then satiated themselves with plunder, &c., ceased

from war, and his Excellency returned to Beyrout. We then again requested that a battalion of soldiers might be sent to protect our persons and that of our followers, and to keep down the rebellion; but after two days Said-Abd-el-Salat Hamed, of Beyrout, and Selim Bey, having in their hands an order from his Highness the Mushir, desired me to go to Beyrout.

Not trusting to the rebels, I requested the aforesaid Bey and Muhassil to procure for me a pass from the chiefs of the Druses, Hamood and Nasif, to prevent our being molested. This pass was obtained, but they deceived us; for on leaving our palace, we and our followers were plundered of all we possessed in arms, clothes, and money, to the amount of 500,000 piastres; and this treachery took place in the presence of the Bey and the Muhassil.

On our arrival at Beyrout, we thought that his Excellency the Mushir would have made some arrangement for our security, as being in the royal service, but this hope was not realized.

Afterwards his Highness sent the Muhassil with some troops to Deir-el-Kammar; but from this measure no benefit accrued. War and troubles increased, and I was ordered to remain at Beyrout, which his Highness, at the desire of the Druse chiefs, had assented to; and they (the Druses) gained strength.

And after that we were at Beyrout, it became convenient for the Muhassil, without cause or necessity, to meet the wishes of the rebels, who formerly were in arms against the Sublime Porte, assisting the Egyptian Government; and it has been made known to your Highness that, notwithstanding the succour we had petitioned for to the Mushir, our wishes were not hearkened to; which, if they had been, all these troubles would not have taken place, neither would your servant, as an agent of the Imperial Government been dishonoured by being plundered.

I was the first to obey the Imperial mandate, even to the shedding of my blood, and have ever acted up to my duty; but the Mushir notwithstanding, has taken from me the Nishan, and confined me in prison for four days; and afterwards arrived the Imperial order that I should go to Stamboul, and I have since remained here, awaiting the orders of your Highness, and I beg you will regard me with favour, and that your Highness will do what you deem right for me, and restore to me what I have lost, as is the custom, in the clemency of the Sublime Porte towards their servants.

No. 51

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning

(No. 24.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 16, 1842

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatches Nos. 10 and 12, of the 9th and 11th of February, reporting the communications which your colleagues of Austria, France, Prussia, and Russia, at your instigation, and simultaneously with you, had severally made to the Porte, respecting the late change of Government in Mount Lebanon, and stating the reasons which had induced you to take the first step in that matter.

I have the satisfaction to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the course which you have taken; and they agree with you in considering that it was most advisable to treat the measure of the Porte as a temporary expedient, forced upon the Turkish Government by the absolute necessity of a decided conduct on their part in attempting to re-establish order in Mount Lebanon.

It is impossible to deny that the sanguinary conflict which had recently been carried on in that district, and the violent animosity which had been displayed both by the Christians and the Druses, called for the powerful interposition of their common Sovereign. Whatever may be the

amount of blame with which the Turkish authorities in Syria can be charged for their indifference to the contest while actually in progress, it can scarcely be questioned that the immediate establishment of the supremacy of one of the contending parties, before the passions which had actuated them had time to subside, would probably, at no distant day, have led to a renewal of the struggle. Viewing it, therefore, as a temporary expedient, Her Majesty's Government are not prepared to say that the Porte was not justified in assuming the direct rule over the whole of Mount Lebanon; but Her Majesty's Government would very much lament that the Porte should make any permanent change in the Government of the Lebanon which should have the effect of depriving the family of Shehab of the prominent position in that Government which it has so long enjoyed.

Her Majesty's Government are inclined to think that when the incapacity of the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim to govern the Lebanon had been made known to the Porte, it was not bound to maintain him in office, at the risk of rendering the re-establishment of order impossible; although they cannot express any opinion on the Porte's consideration of the eminent services of the Emir, ought not to have effected his removal in the harsh and abrupt manner in which it was brought about. They trust, however, that the representations which, in my despatch No. 18, of the 24th of February, I instructed your Excellency to make to the Turkish Government in his behalf, will have produced an improvement in his condition, and have led to his being reinstated in his property.

Assuming, then, that the Porte may be willing, when peace is restored in the Lebanon, again to intrust the administration of affairs in that district to the family of Shehab, Her Majesty's Government conceive, from what they have heard of the character of the Emir Emin, that the selection of that person for the important office of Governor of the Lebanon would be a judicious act on the part of the Porte.

I acquainted your Excellency in my despatch No. 11, of the 25th of November, that Her Majesty's Government strongly deprecated the reappointment of the ex-Emir Beshir Shehab; and in my despatch No. 17 of the 27th of that month, I apprized you that Her Majesty's Government would not wish to offer any objection to the nomination of his son, the Emir Emin, if the Porte should think it necessary to remove the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim. Since the date of those despatches, accounts have been received of the Lebanon having been convulsed with civil war; and there is no one, as far as Her Majesty's Government is informed, so well calculated to remedy the mischiefs which have resulted from that calamity as the Emir Emin, who would appear in Syria with all the influence which his family connexion and wealth would enable him to exercise, and with all the advantages which the reputation he is said to enjoy for a conciliatory spirit and talents for administration, would confer upon him.

But although Her Majesty's Government think the Porte would do well to appoint Emir Emin, they would not wish your Excellency to take a prominent part in recommending his nomination. Your Excellency is authorized strongly to urge upon the Porte the expediency and justice of conferring the Government of the Lebanon upon a Christian ruler of the family of Shehab; but, with regard to the individual to be selected, they conceive that it would be better for the Porte itself, and more conducive to the tranquility of the Lebanon, that the Governor, whoever he may be, should owe his nomination to the spontaneous act of the Sultan. Therefore, all that Her Majesty's Government wish that your Excellency should do in that respect would be, to offer an opinion that if the Porte should appoint the Emir Emin, it would be taking a course which, so far as your Government could judge, would hold out the greatest promise of advantage to all parties concerned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ABERDEEN

No. 52

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 29.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 23, 1842.

NO complaints of the conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel Rose having been addressed to me either officially or confidentially, by any one of the Turkish Masters, and not having been aware that such complaints had been addressed to the Embassy before my arrival here, I made inquiry, after receiving your Lordship's instruction No. 9, both of Mr. Barchin and of M. P. Sari, as to the nature and extent of any representation bearing that character, which might have been made to them by the Porte, either in the time of Rifaat Pasha, or during the administration of Sarim Pasha.

The result of my inquiry is that Colonel Rose's name, although it was specifically mentioned, was only mentioned in company with those of the other British officers in Syria, at a time when the Porte gave some intimation of their conduct being deemed rather more inquisitive and exacting than was found to be convenient, after the cessation of hostilities in Syria; and that when his exequatur was applied for, so far was he from being made an object of censure or complaint by the Turkish Government, much good-will and civility were shown by Rifaat Pasha in acceding to the application for that instrument.

Under these circumstances, I have thought it advisable to avail myself of the opportunity towards the close of your Lordship's despatch, and to abstain from making any direct communication upon this delicate subject to the Reis Effendi. I have been the more inclined to take this course from having a fair opportunity of doing justice to Colonel Rose, and, in substance, attaining your Lordship's object, incidentally, and without the hazard of raising a question, which, if heretofore raised at all, has latterly at least subsided of itself. I allude to a passage in the instruction which I had occasion to address yesterday to M. Pisan on the subject of Syria. Your Lordship will find a copy of it inclosed with another of my despatches (No. 39), and in what I have there said of Colonel Rose, I trust that you will perceive the expression, though reduced to a smaller compass of the principal ideas which your Lordship intended eventually to convey to the Reis Effendi respecting that meritorious officer and zealous public servant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

No. 53

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 39.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 26, 1842.

AT midnight, on the 19th instant, Her Majesty's steam-ship "Phoenix" arrived here unexpectedly, from Beyrout, with several despatches addressed to me by Colonel Rose, who had returned from Jerusalem a short time before. His object in despatching the "Phoenix" was to inform me of an attempt which had been made under the influence of Omar Pasha, the Turkish Governor of Mount Lebanon, to get up petitions by means of fraud and menace, with a view to the confirmation of the new order of things, and to the excitement, among the Syrian tribes, of feelings inimical to Great Britain and to British subjects.

I abstain from remarking on the baseness and ingratitude of such an intrigue. The true interests of the Porte are more endangered by it than ours, and I would not willingly question the importance which Colonel Rose attaches to its eventual consequences, and to those indications of discontent and disorder which threaten at no distant period a fresh convulsion in the country.

The "Phoenix" was also the bearer of despatches to the Internuncio from the Austrian Consul at Beyrout. His Excellency communicated them to me, and I found that they corroborated the principal points of Colonel Rose's intelligence respecting the fraudulent petitions and rigorous treatment of the Christians.

Copies of Mr. Adelbourg's despatches are herewith inclosed, and I join with them some extracts of Colonel Rose's voluminous correspondence, which I have communicated to the Reis Effendi. Conceiving that I could not with propriety omit to bring the subject of Colonel Rose's complaints under the notice of the Porte, I availed myself of the opportunity to hazard a fresh experiment in support of the demand already made for a reconsideration of the late arrangements in Syria.

I did not venture upon this step without the concurrence of the Internuncio, who appeared to participate entirely and without reserve in my view of the subject.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of my instruction to M. Pisan. A copy of the Internuncio's instruction to his Dragoman is also inclosed.

With respect to the French and Russian Representatives, we agreed that it would be more advisable not to invite them to partake of our proceeding. The "Phoenix" had come away without any despatches for them, and the principal ground of my representations to the Porte was originally an English one. I approved them however in general terms, of the motives which had led Colonel Rose to despatch the "Phoenix" to Constantinople, and I have since imparted to them, confidentially, the contents of my instruction to M. Pisan.

Copies of Mr. Wood's despatches to your Lordship arrived in time to afford me some additional materials of intelligence respecting the dangerous state of affairs in Syria, and I have placed extracts of them also under the consideration of the Reis Effendi.

A week has now elapsed, and the only answer I have received from his Excellency is, that the whole of my communication to him will be deliberately examined by his colleagues before he can be authorised to give me an answer, and that he is convinced, in the mean time, by intelligence received at the Porte from Mustapha Pasha, that the accounts transmitted to me are altogether void of truth.

I must not omit to mention that the Internuncio, with the permission of the Sultan, had a long secret conversation, on the 24th, with Riza Pasha, the Grand Chamberlain of the Court; and, according to his account of it, his Excellency appears to have pressed even more earnestly than I have been connected with the affairs of Syria and the proclamation of Gulhané upon the mind of the Pasha, who promised to report the whole to his Sovereign and to return an answer in the course of a few days.

Whatever may come of these endeavours to rescue the Porte from a false step, I trust your Lordship will be of opinion that I have not unnecessarily committed Her Majesty's Government, or exceeded the limits marked out in my instructions.

I have, &c.
Signed: STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure I in No. 53.

The Austrian Consul at Beyrout to the Baron de Sturmer.

Monsieur le Baron,

Beyrout, 13 Février 1842

J'ai eu le plaisir de la visite de Colonel Rose. Il est venu m'avertir qu'il va expédier un pyroscaphe pour Constantinople avec des dépêches pour l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique et qu'il m'offrirait l'occasion pour le cas où j'en voudrais profiter.

Il ajouta, qu'il m'en prévient moi seul, de tous ses collègues, vu l'intimité des rapports qui règnent entre nos Gouvernements, et qu'il me priait par conséquent, de n'en parler à qui que ce soit.

Après l'avoir remercié de cette marque d'amitié, je l'ai prié de me dire franchement le motif d'une expédition si imprévue, en lui promettant le secret le plus inviolable.

Le Colonel entra alors dans des amples développemens: "Je dois informer notre Ambassadeur à Constantinople de l'état des choses en Syrie, qui me paraît de la nature la plus alarmante. Peut-être votre pyroscaphe tardera-t-il cette fois-ci d'arriver, je me suis donc décidé d'expédier celui qui se trouve à ma disposition."

"Je porte plainte contre Omar Pacha, le nouveau Gouverneur du Liban. Il fait circuler et signer parmi les Maronites des requêtes d'un caractère manifestement hostile contre l'Angleterre. Par ces adresses on se plaint de l'arrivée d'un Grand Prêtre Anglais; on en demande l'expulsion de la Syrie; on proteste contre les livres Anglais qui se répandent dans la Montagne, on va jusqu'à dire que les Anglais méditent de s'emparer de la Syrie. C'est Omar Pacha qui est l'auteur et instigateur du complot. Déjà les requêtes se trouvent entre les mains de Selim Pacha, on en fait la traduction de l'Arabe en Turc; un tatar se tient prêt pour les transporter à Constantinople. Il n'y a pas de temps à perdre. Je dois le faire avant pour déjouer ses intrigues par l'appui énergique de son Excellence Sir Stratford Canning. En même temps je vais adresser une protestation contre Omar, et demander à Mustapha Pacha l'émission d'un ordre sévère pour que de pareils procédés ne puissent plus se renouveler, puisque, dans le cas contraire, le Gouvernement Ottoman déclarerait par là, être en état de rupture et d'hostilité avec le Gouvernement Britannique."

Sur ma demande ce qu'on entendait dire par Grand Prêtre Anglais, le Colonel répliqua:—

"C'est ce qu'on appelle l'Evêque Alexandre, qui est arrivé il y a pas long temps, et que j'ai installé moi-même à Jérusalem. Nous y avons été parfaitement bien accueilli, quoiqu'on s'efforce de dire le contraire. Tatar Pacha a fait preuve de dispositions vraiment amicales. Les chefs des religions qui résident à Jérusalem, et à qui j'ai présenté notre évêque, ont fait la pareille. Tout me prouve qu'il a été le bienvenu dans ce lieu."

J'ai averti le Colonel, que "les esprits étaient moins favorablement disposés qu'il ne pensait; et que ce n'est pas Omar Pacha seul, qui, en justice, devra être accusé. D'abord l'Evêque Alexandre n'a pas été reçu, ni la Pasha, qui a refusé de lui donner l'hospitalité. Il n'a pas accordé la permission de bâtir une église Protestante Anglaise. Mustapha Pacha a imité l'exemple de son Gouvernement en refusant de donner l'évêque, lors de son passage par Beyrout, d'un bouyourouk de voyage. Ce n'est qu'au nom personnel du Colonel qu'il avait été restreint. Les honneurs qui ont été rendus en route et lors de l'arrivée à Jérusalem appartiennent au Consul-Général de la Grande Bretagne et nullement à l'évêque introduit. Les adhérens des différentes religions qui peuplent la Syrie sont tous émus de l'arrivée d'un dignitaire ecclésiastique, qui

Juif converti lui-même, aura pour tâche de convertir les Juifs et autres. Il est aisé de concevoir l'effroi qu'en ressent le peuple de Moïse, vu l'opiniâtreté fanatique ou tenace de sa croyance religieuse. Les Grecs redoutent le prosélytisme du nouvel arrivant et des missionnaires qui l'accompagnent. Les Maronites suivent l'impulsion générale. Les Druses sont peut-être les seuls qui voient avec indifférence les germes d'une nouvelle époque, car, comme ils n'ont aucune religion, ils ne se soucient nullement de nous autres pour fait de religion; mais ils voudront également gagner au jeu, en fait de politique, c'est-à-dire, ils seront de notre côté, tant qu'on leur promettra d'être leur allié, et par conséquent l'adversaire des Chrétiens du pays."

Le Colonel répondit qu'il ne voyait nulle part les mauvaises dispositions dont je parlais. Qu'au contraire, les Grecs étaient assez favorables aux Protestants; que d'ailleurs il n'existe pas une grande différence entre ces deux professions de foi. Ce n'est qu'entre Protestants et Catholiques qu'il règne une grande distance.

Après avoir dit, en passant, que les Protestants se trompent fort et qu'ils croient à la bienveillance des Grecs, surtout depuis que le Patriarche de Constantinople a été déposé par les efforts de Lord Ponsonby, j'ai mis fin au discours, en disant, "Au reste, ce n'est pas à moi de vous faire connaître le caractère du pays. Je vous ai dit, Colonel, par forme de renseignement, ce que j'ai observé. Je souhaite que vos observations soient plus justes. Et moi vous n'avez rien à craindre; tant que vous ne toucherez pas les intérêts de notre religion, nous resterons comme toujours bons amis."

Le Colonel, après quelques moments de réflexion, et après m'avoir remercié de mes bonnes dispositions, a exprimé des doutes sur la bienveillance de la Russie. Il pense que M. Basili, agissant d'après des ordres de Constantinople, ait gagné même Mustapha Pacha pour se déclarer contre le nouvel évêque Protestant. Il exprime le désir de voir consolidée l'alliance entre les Quatre Puissances et la France.

Il me fit part, qu'une pétition en faveur de l'Emir Emin à Constantinople était partie par le dernier pyroscaphe, c'est-à-dire le 26 du mois passé.

Il me parla beaucoup en faveur des Druses. Il rejetta la faute du passé en grande partie sur les Maronites. Il pense "que les Maronites devraient renoncer aux réclamations d'indemnité qu'ils élèvent contre les Druses; regarder le passé comme non-venu, et faire la paix avec leurs voisins belliqueux."

A quoi j'ai répondu, que si les Maronites, de leur propre mouvement, se désistent de leurs réclamations, l'état des choses gagnerait certainement en tranquillité, mais qu'en justice on ne pouvait pas exiger un si grand sacrifice, et, qu'en tout cas, il faudra prendre des mesures pour empêcher les pilleurs et rebâtir les maisons qui leur ont été brûlées, afin de les empêcher de faire le brigandage et le vagabondage.

Tels sont M. le Baron les principaux renseignements de l'entretien que j'ai eu avec le Colonel Rose. Il en résulte, que l'expédition du pyroscaphe a un double but, savoir: l'ent, d'invoquer l'action de Sir Stratford Canning contre Omar Pacha; et 2ent, de faire reconnaître le nouvel évêque Anglican Protestant pour la Syrie.

Monsieur le Consul de France, d'après ce qui me revient de bonne source, se réjouit des contrariétés qu'éprouve ce qu'ils appellent l'influence Anglaise.

Agréa, &c.
(Signé) ED D'ADELBOURG

Inclosure 2 in No. 53

The Austrian Consul at Beyrout to the Baron de Sturmer

Monsieur le Baron,

Beyrout, 13 Février, 1842

LE Colonel Rose m'a fait l'honneur de venir me voir une seconde fois. Comme nous sommes voisins, nous nous voyons fréquemment et sans cérémonies.

Il m'a prié d'abord de présenter ses respects à votre Excellence. Il manifesta ensuite le désir de connaître encore une fois ma manière de voir sur l'établissement de l'évêque Anglican Protestant à Jérusalem.

J'ai répondu, conformément à la lettre des instructions qui m'avaient été données, tant à Vienne, que par votre Excellence, que je suis chargé l'autorité avec mon Collège d'Anglais, les relations de la confédération des puissances. Qu'il s'agit de la propagation du protestantisme en Syrie, je devais me tenir neutre, mais que dans le cas où il s'agit de la défense des intérêts Chrétiens en général, j'étais autorisé à unir mon action à celle de mes collègues, vu l'amitié si heureusement existante entre toutes les Puissances de l'Europe, à moins que des graves inconvénients ne s'y opposent.

D'après ces principes (ainsi continuai-je) qui m'ont été prescrites par la sagesse de mon Gouvernement, il est aisé de définir la sphère de mes pensées et de mes actions.

Je pense donc que puisque l'Angleterre a établi un évêque à Jérusalem et que les Puissances n'y opposent pas de résistance, il ne m'appartient pas d'avoir un jugement à moi. Je pense, d'après ces mêmes principes, que mon devoir est de désapprouver le prosélytisme, puisqu'il empêche de réaliser le but désiré par tous les Gouvernements, c'est-à-dire, qu'il rend impossible la paix, l'ordre, et la tranquillité dans ce monde. Je pense que le nouvel évêque n'étant pas chargé de faire de prosélytes, il est en droit par justice divine, d'après le droit des nations, et conformément aux traités, d'exercer librement son culte, qui est celui professé par une grande partie de la Grande Bretagne.

Le Colonel, satisfait de ma réponse, m'assura que l'évêque Alexandre n'est absolument pas autorisé par le Gouvernement Britannique à faire des prosélytes. Qu'il est uniquement chargé de représenter le culte protestant auprès de la Terre Sainte, tout comme les autres cultes qui existent librement.

"Lord Aberdeen," pourrions-nous-il, "m'avait prescrit de rassurer tous ceux qui seraient alarmés par l'apparition de notre évêque. Heureusement, je n'ai vu nullement de l'alarme, au contraire, nous avons été accablés par les compliments et les éloges. Les Grecs à qui je me suis présenté, ont appelé les Protestants les fils de leur église."

Le Colonel exprima de rechef ses soupçons sur l'opposition secrète de la Russie, ou au moins de M. Basili. Il suppose que c'est Mustapha lui-même qui, sur les insinuations de M. Basili et des évêques Grecs, ait ordonné à Omar Pacha de faire solliciter le renvoi des missionnaires et prêtres Anglais.

Il m'a lu l'office qu'il adresse sur ce point à Mustapha Pacha. Il y expose d'abord les mouvements d'Omar Pacha contre l'évêque Anglican. Il demande l'émission d'un ordre pour empêcher à l'avenir des pareils procédés. Il rappelle que Mustapha Pacha si ses actions l'ont par Pacha ont eu lieu par son autorisation ou à son insu.

Le Consul de France, informé qu'Omar Pacha veut défendre aux Montagnards d'entretenir des relations avec les Français, aurait également adressé à Mustapha Pacha une lettre très forte à ce sujet.

Agréa, &c.
(Signé) ED D'ADELBOURG.

Inclosure 3 in No. 53

The Austrian Consul at Beyrouth to the Baron de Sturmer.

Monsieur le Baron,

Beyrouth, 13 Février, 1842

LORS de la dernière guerre entre les Druses et Maronites, ceux de ces derniers à qui on avait brûlé leurs maisons et dévasté ou enlevé leur propriété, se virent dispersés dans les pays voisins du Kesrouan et du Mont Liban où ils trouverent accueillis et hospitaliers par leurs frères de religion. C'est là qu'ils se réfugièrent jusqu'à la nomination de Omar Pacha en qualité de Gouverneur du Liban.

Depuis la nomination du Pacha, tous les fugitifs reçurent l'ordre de retourner à leurs foyers. Ils leur fut promis protection et assistance contre les Druses, et ces derniers s'avisèrent de vouloir maltraiter les Chrétiens. En conséquence on put voir que ceux qui ne réussirent pas immédiatement à la publication seront gravement punis.

L'attention du gouvernement local était sans doute favorable aux Chrétiens. Mais les menaces de punition à des gens qui étaient encore tout effarés du passé, paralysa l'effet. "Où devons-nous retourner," demandèrent les paysans; "et où demeurer, puisque nos demeures ont été détruites. De quoi vivrons nous, sans argent, sans nourriture, sans moyens de subsistance, puisque nos biens sont échus et restés aux Druses? Qui nous protégera contre la prépotence de nos adversaires, puisque nous serons obligés de vivre au milieu d'eux, et qu'on nous a ôté nos armes qui serviraient à nous défendre? Que le Gouvernement Ottoman nous fournisse les moyens de retourner et de subsister, et nous obéirons sur le champ. En attendant, qu'il nous soit permis de rester chez nos frères jusqu'à ce que les affaires soient complètement arrangées.

Omar Pacha, qui désirait annoncer à son Gouvernement que l'affaire de la Montagne a été arrangée par la seule nomination d'un Pacha, fut fâché de cette opposition, due en partie aux circonstances. Il réitéra les ordres; mais il oublie l'essentiel, c'est-à-dire d'encourager ceux qui doivent obéir.

Selim Pacha, comme Gouverneur en chef de la province de Sidon à laquelle appartient la partie du Liban à pacifier, a pris jusqu'à présent la part d'Omar. Il aurait dit à ceux qui voulaient l'entendre, que ces désordres proviennent de l'argent envoyé par l'Autriche et la France, puisqu'autrement les Maronites, sans argent en poche, seraient obligés de se retirer chez eux.

Interpellé par moi sur ce propos, averti que les yeux de l'Europe sont tournés vers la Syrie et le Liban, le Pacha a protesté de sa haute considération pour l'Autriche, ainsi que de sa ferme volonté, de bien faire en toute occasion. J'en ai remercié le Pacha, en lui observant que mon but était cette fois-ci de le rendre attentif à ce qui se passe autour de lui.

Au retour de Mustapha Pacha, qui se trouve encore à Damas, une commission mixte, sous la présidence d'Omar Pacha, sera établie à la Montagne pour régler les indemnités des Maronites. C'est ainsi que Selim Pacha m'a répondu à la demande que je lui avais adressée à cet égard.

Le Colonel Rowe a porté plainte auprès de Selim Pacha, contre le Gouverneur du Liban, comme excitant les habitants à la haine des Anglais.

Agréer, &c.,

(Signé) ED. D'ADELBOURG

Inclosure 4 in No. 53.

The Cerat Hanaa Stamboli to the Austrian Consul at Beyrouth

(Traduction.)

Après les compliments d'usage,

Le 10 Février, 1842

VOUS faire hommage par le récit de ce qui se passe au Liban étant un devoir, je m'empresse de vous soumettre cet exposé.

Son Excellence Omar Pacha émana l'ordre aux Princes et Cheiks de la Nation Chrétienne pour se rendre à Deir-el-Kammar, et effectivement ils y furent des Princes Bellama, des Cheiks Kazen, Habeih et Dahdah, que son Excellence retint chez lui.

Ensuite arriva, le 3 du courant, auprès de Cheiks Francs et Kazen a Gosta, Mohammed Aga Bimbachi, commissaire d'Omar Pacha, portant des requêtes rédigées par ce dernier. L'une concernant le Prêtre Anglais qui désire résider en Syrie, en qualité de délégué, pour y édifier des maisons et des collages, elle ajoute, "que par un tel procédé, et l'existence des missionnaires en ce pays, il en résulte des désordres parmi les sujets, et leur tranquillité s'évanouit, choses contraires aux volontés de la Sublime Porte; on supplie donc, que ce prêtre et ses adhérents soient enlevés, et qu'il ne soit pas toléré qu'ils aient des demeures en Syrie."

La seconde requête, se référant à la question du Chef du Liban, expose: "Que, précédemment, les communications Chrétiennes, par l'entremise du Consul de France et le moyen de M. le Patriarche, ont présenté une requête ("Arz-Mahuar") à Sa Hautesse, la priant de les laisser sous leurs anciens usages en ayant pour Chef un membre de la famille Chrétienne. Mais, ne pouvant obtenir l'ordre auguste que telle charge soit donnée à l'un d'eux, ils se rendirent à Constantinople, et ne voulant autre que lui pour Grand Prince, conformément à ce qui est d'usage. Cette requête n'est pas vraie; et si elle a été formulée, elle ne doit être reconnue sincère, puisqu'elle a été faite avec artifice, attendu que les supplians acceptent Son Excellence Omar Pacha actuellement établi, et celui qui devra lui succéder par ordre de la Sublime Porte."

Mohammed Aga employa la ruse et l'artifice pour obtenir la signature des Cheiks, leur présentant d'abord la requête relative au prêtre, ayant soin de cacher la seconde, et par cette tromperie il prenait les sceaux de quelques uns pour les apposer à la première, et ensuite il scella la seconde sans leur donner connaissance et lecture du contenu de cette dernière; et à ceux qui lui demandaient ce qu'elle exprimait, il répondait: "Cela ne vous regarde pas, il est de votre devoir de la signer, et celui qui ne voudra pas s'y soumettre, encourra de graves préjudices de la part du Gouvernement."

Mohammed Aga dit aussi qu'il avait vu les sceaux de ceux qui suspectant le contenu de la seconde requête, refusaient de la sceller, et par ces moyens conquit la signature de divers Chefs, qui craignaient pour leurs personnes et pour leurs parents retenus par Omar Pacha.

Après le retour de son envoyé, Samedi le 5 du courant, Omar Pacha rassembla les Princes et Cheiks près de lui retenus, leur donna lecture des deux requêtes et leur demanda avec fermeté de les sceller, en manifestant sa colère et menaçant ceux qui s'y refuseraient, or, par appréhension du mal qui leur pourrait arriver, étant sequestrés, ils furent contraints, malgré eux, de signer.

Voici ce que je dois vous relater, M. le Consul-Général, afin que vous soyez persuadé que ce qui s'est fait l'a été forcément, et par suite de menaces, comme d'ailleurs ce doit être à votre connaissance.

Je suppose, et même je suis sûr, que d'après cet exposé, les excuses de ceux qui ont signé seront acceptées, et qu'ils ne seront pas reprochables; vous connaissez d'ailleurs la manière de ce Gouvernement, et tout sera comme vous le souhaiterez. Par votre généreux intermédiaire, si Dieu veut, je vous prie de leur adresser nos vives salutations et de leur faire part de notre vif intérêt.

moyen, que par la haute bienveillance de votre très auguste Gouvernement.

Je vous prie de m'honorer de vos précieux écrits et ordres, m'offrant en toute occasion et désormais, à vous, M. le Consul-Général, prospérité

Agruez, &c.
(Signé) CURE HANNA STAMBALLI

Inclosure 5 in No. 53

Colonel Rose to Mr. Bankhead.

(Extract.)

Beirut, February 12, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, soon after my return from Jerusalem, I learnt that reports were current, that a petition or papers, one of them of an extraordinary nature, were in circulation in the mountain.

There were various accounts as to the nature of this document, but all agreed, that it, the petition, contained unjustifiable and hostile reflections on the English, and further, that Omar Pasha had caused it to be signed at his residence at Ibtideen, by the Druze Sheiks, and such of the Maronite Emirs and Sheiks who had been convoked there by him, and then sent it, some said by a Divan Effendi, or one of his officers, for further signatures to the Kermouan.

In consequence of this circumstance, I wrote a letter to Mr. Wood, at Damascus, of which I have the honour to inclose to you a copy. I read it to Selim Pasha on the 10th instant, but he denied cognizance of the petition in question, although he said he knew that Omar Pasha was getting up an Ardhil Mahdeen in his own favour.

Yesterday a Druze chief of considerable influence visited me, and said to me at once, "What has happened betwixt the Ottoman and British Governments?" I said, "Nothing," and asked what he meant? He said there must be something, or some intrigue must have taken place; and he then stated that, "About twelve days ago we went to Ibtideen with Omar Pasha, and there were present Emir Emin Raslem, and some people of the house of Ahdal Melek, and of the house of Amud, (all Druzes, and some Christian Emirs. Omar Pasha brought to us a petition in the name of the people of the Mountain, Druzes and Christian, which was addressed to himself, Omar Pasha. This petition had then no signature, and he, the Pasha, said to us, 'Put your names and seals to it,' (the petition.) It stated that a British priest, (Huri Kebiri,) a chief in religion, is arrived, and is wishing to come to the Mountain, in order to establish a school for education, and that his proceeding was the very fountain and cause of revolution, (fasad,) disunion, and want of tranquillity; and that the end of it would be bad, and destroy our country."

"This took place the day after Sheik Francis Kazen had a long and secret interview with the Pasha, which lasted till midnight.

"When the petition was produced, the Druzes were surprised and vexed. I tried by many means to put it (the petition) off, and therefore spoke with Emir Emin Raslem, who was near me, and told him that it would be improper to make a cause of enmity with people who were our best friends, the English. Emir Emin replied, 'We must do anything he may order us,' and he signed and sealed it. All those who were present have signed it contrary to their wishes, and thus Saad Nauman Djallut and his brother have signed it. And I remained without signing it. But, two days afterwards, Omar Pasha sent on purpose for me, and desired me to put my name to it, and according to his wishes I have signed it. The second and third day Omar Pasha made the remainder sign it."

[The following is a separate extract, with information obtained from a different person.]

The whole tenor of the petition led another great personage to come to the conclusion that the petition inferred or meant to say that the English intended to take the country. When he declined to sign the petition, Omar Pasha said, "You had better think about it," and ordered him to sign it.

Inclosure 6 in No. 53

Colonel Rose to Mr. Bankhead.

(Extract.)

Beirut, February 12, 1842

All classes almost are impressed with the conviction, such is the evil effect of the petition, that the Porte entertains imminent, if not hostile feelings towards Great Britain, a state of feeling to be regretted at all times, but more especially at present, and in the actual state of the country, emerging as it is from a civil war, and disturbed by party. The Government of Syria should neglect no means for strengthening herself at the present moment, in order to keep in awe the turbulent and agitated spirits she is to deal with; and yet this is the time which the Lieutenant of the most influential district in Syria chooses for announcing officially to the inhabitants of that district hostile feelings towards a country, of whose power the inhabitants witnessed such convincing proofs only last year. The common saying amongst them is, "England took Syria from Mehemet Ali, and gave it to the Sultan."

It is impossible to foresee all the evil effects of Omar Pasha's conduct. Confused accounts of the petition may reach Jerusalem; its inhabitants, Jews, Christians of all sects, may follow the example set them by the Governor of Mount Lebanon, and accuse the Bishop with intentions of educating, and then exciting them to revolt; the Pasha, a weak man, may think that he is acting according to the wishes and intentions of his Government, on which Omar Pasha has thrown such doubt, and encourage, or at any rate not repress, violence towards the Bishop.

I beg leave to represent most respectfully that, judging from the effect produced here by Omar Pasha's conduct, I cannot see that any other satisfaction can be offered for his conduct, except his speedy removal. If Her Majesty's ship "Phoenix" were to bring the order for it, the effect would be very beneficial.

Inclosure 7 in No. 53

Colonel Rose to Mr. Consul Wood

Sir,

Beirut, February 10, 1842

I HAVE the honour to state to you, that I have lately heard frequent statements that Omar Pasha is causing a document to be circulated through the Lebanon which conveys improper reflections on Great Britain, and, consequently, on Her Majesty's Government.

This document is stated to be carried about the country by Omar Pasha's Divan Effendi, who uses all the authority of the name and influence of the Governor of the Lebanon to induce the inhabitants to sign it. There are different accounts of the nature of this document; but all the accounts agree that, even if the most favourable construction be given to its meaning, it conveys a censure on the English, inasmuch as it calls on the inhabitants to state that they never have had, or will have for the future, any connexion with the inhabitants of Great Britain, and, moreover, that they will not receive English books, or words to that effect.

The fact of the Sultan's Governor of the Lebanon calling on its inhabitants to make such a declaration proves that either—

1st. His Excellency imputes to the inhabitants that they have

sought in some way to form an improper connexion in relation with Great Britain; or—

2ndly. That Great Britain, the most faithful ally of the Sultan, has endeavoured to form an improper connexion or relation with them, the inhabitants of the Lebanon. Either or both of these imputations is calculated to be injurious to the undoubted and unrepachable good faith of Her Majesty's Government; and I deny, in the most emphatic and strongest manner, the truth, in the remotest degree, of any such suppositions or imputations.

I request, therefore, that you will represent to Mustapha Pasha, who is the Sultan's Plenipotentiary ("Moustakul") in Syria the extreme regret of the Government of Omar Pasha, and I have detailed it, has caused to me; and that you will request his Excellency, in my name, to be pleased to direct, without any loss of time, Omar Pasha to cause an immediate stop to be put by him, or by any other of the Sultan's Authorities in Syria, to the circulation of any document which reflects in the slightest degree on the good faith of the Government whose servant I have the honour to be.

I further beg that you will request Mustapha Pasha to be pleased to call on Omar Pasha to state to his Excellency his reasons for having circulated the written document above mentioned, in order that I may transmit the same to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and to Her Majesty's Government, for their information.

The American Missionaries have established schools in the mountains of Lebanon, and given school-books to their scholars; but these schools and these proceedings of the American Missionaries have no connexion whatever with the Government, or with any of the inhabitants of Great Britain, although some of the lowest and most ignorant of the inhabitants of the Lebanon may believe that Great Britain and America are one or the same country.

I am, Sir,
(Signed) HUGH ROSE

Inclosure 8 in No 33

Colonel Rose to Mr. Bankhead.

(Extract.)

Beyrout, February 6, 1842

NO people certainly had ever stronger reasons than most of the Druses have, for wishing to be well with their rulers, for, protected by them, they preserve their persons and their plunder, but the part which they have to do is extremely unbecoming to them. It has been intimated to the Druses, that they must pull down their helmet, or sacred houses, and burn their books, both of which the Druses declined to do.

About ten days ago, the son of Sheik Hamoud Abuneked, joint Druse Governor of Deir-el-Kammar, came here and requested Selim Pasha to send back immediately all the Christians who were here, and at Sidon, and who had fled from Deir-el-Kammar, to induce Selim Pasha to do so, he presented him with three fine horses. The Seraskier gave a peremptory order to the Christians to return to Deir-el-Kammar, or, in other words, to certain destruction or pillage.

On the 4th instant, I was told, in strict confidence, of barbarity of conduct on the part of Selim Pasha, which is only equalled by the fatal bastinadoing which he caused to be inflicted on a Christian, as is detailed in my despatch No. 33, of December 7, 1841.

A Christian, at the beginning of this month, was accused, justly or unjustly, but it is said the former, of robbing a Turk; the proof does not appear to have been clear, for he was bastinadoed for two days, till he should confess it; the third day he was taken to a house, at the back of Selim Pasha's residence, and tortured. His neck was put in a collar, which was suspended by a chain from the roof, and his head raised to prevent his cries being heard, the flesh on his arms was then pulled with large iron pincers, and hot iron blades inserted up his nostrils, and, it is

said, between the nails and the flesh; the prisoner gave way to the pain, and acknowledged that he had given money to a very respectable person, Shrik Gandoor, but afterwards asserted that this statement was quite false, and only extracted from him by the torture.

The Druses are already beginning to show symptoms of mistrust of the Turks; Omar Pasha resides in the palace of the ex-Emir Beshir, at Ibtideen, which, as the crow flies, is about half or three-quarters of a mile from, and commands Deir-el-Kammar; the greater part of the Turkish force is with Omar Pasha, the remainder in Deir-el-Kammar, the cannon are in position at Ibtideen.

Christian women in Deir-el-Kammar, nearly starved and in despair, have embraced Mahometanism, they were all immediately married according to Mussulman custom, one of them to a black slave.

The acts and feeling of the Turks render daily the position of the Christians, in this country, more degraded.

Inclosure 9 in No 33

Colonel Rose to Mr. Bankhead.

(Extract.)

Beyrout, February 12, 1842

THE most convincing proof of the collusion and good understanding betwixt the Turkish authorities has been furnished by the appointment of the Emir Emin Raslem, a Druse, who is mentioned in my despatch No. 8, to the governorship of the Plain of Beyrout, and of the surrounding country. He was the agent and channel of communication between the Druses and the Turkish authorities, and one of the fomenters and principal actors in the civil war. In the beginning of November last, he came into Beyrout, having been sent for by Selim Pasha to deceive the Christians (this occurred at the height of the disturbances). Selim Pasha and the Desterdar gave him a severe reprimand in public for the part he had taken, the same evening he was with Selim Pasha, he was accompanied out of town by his cavasaca, and took out of Beyrout with him four mules loaded with ammunition for the Druses.

Selim Pasha and the Turkish authorities have now created for him, the chief promoter of the civil war, an employment. They have made a new governorship for him, and given to him the command of the town, village, and property of the late Emir Beshir-el-Cassim, thus, whilst they, the Turkish authorities, send this unfortunate personage, deprived by them of his high office, as a prisoner to Constantinople, asserting, at the same time, that they have no cause of complaint against him, they decorate with a sabre, a cashmere shawl and a fur pelisse, the rebellious Chief who led on his followers against his Prince, and invest him moreover with an extensive government, which comprises the house and lands of that very Prince.

Emir Emin Raslem, availing himself of the authority and power which he derives from his office, has laid forcible hands on the lands and property of the wife of the unfortunate Emir Beshir, who was sent the other day to Constantinople.

The Princess, wife of the Emir Beshir, has sent me a petition detailing the conduct of the Emir Emin Raslem. I gave it in person to Selim Pasha, and strongly supplicated as prayer, he said that he would send an order to Omar Pasha respecting it, but I have had too much experience of that description of order and of promise. Besides the first act of the Government of Omar Pasha was the appointment of the Emir Emin Raslem, and he will naturally support him to the extent of his ability.

The determination with which the authorities still continue unduly to favour the Druses, is circumstantial evidence that the greater part of them have, as I stated, received large presents of money, part of the Christian plunder, from that people.

P.S. Half of the Church of St. Anne, near Nazareth, the oldest Christian establishment in Syria, has been destroyed by the Turks. According to tradition it was founded by the mother of the Virgin.

The Druses near Solyma have taken down the bells of the Capuchin Convent, and possessed themselves forcibly of land belonging to the convent.

Inclosure 10 in No. 53.

Sir Stratford Canning to M. Pison:

Sir

Paris, February 21, 1842

I HAVE to direct you to wait upon the Reis Effendi at an early hour to-morrow morning, and to make to his Excellency the following communication:

The Reis Effendi is aware of the arrival of a British steam-vessel express from Beyrout with intelligence of a very unsatisfactory nature. His Excellency needs not to be reminded either of the services rendered to the Sublime Porte in Syria by the united arms of England and Austria, or of the opinions lately conveyed to his Highness the Grand Visier as well as to his Excellency respecting the recent change of Government in Mount Lebanon by the several Representatives of Russia, France, and Prussia, in addition to those of the above-mentioned Powers.

The British Ambassador has now to state, in virtue of the despatches received from Syria, that the conduct of Omar Pasha is such as to expose the Sultan's authority and the peace of the country to fresh and imminent danger. Without securing the permanent attachment of the Druses, it is calculated to oppress and degrade the Christian population. The Ambassador would fail in his duty if he were to allow these dangers to gather to a head in silence. As the Representative of a Power most friendly to the Porte he is bound to call the attention of the Turkish Ministry, and if need be, of the Sultan himself, to the effects of a conduct so utterly at variance with justice and sound policy. The discharge of this duty is the more indispensable, as the measures adopted by Omar Pasha have a direct tendency to alienate the Christian Powers, and to sow mistrust and discord between the Porte and one of her most steady friends.

If the Porte be really anxious to repair the late calamities, to perpetuate the tranquillity of Mount Lebanon, and to establish her sovereignty on lasting foundations, let those invested with her authority show some regard for long established privileges, confirmed by promise, let them deal equal justice to all parties, and respect the claims of humanity while they enforce obedience to the law. The conduct of Omar Pasha is the very reverse of this. By main violence he compels the Christians, who have given many proofs of their loyalty, to return, without protection, to the ruins of their former houses. he corrupts, without gaining, the Druses, by leaving them in possession of their property, he compels the Christians by force and fraud to petitions at once deceptive and insulting; nor is he deterred by any sentiments of gratitude or of duty from rendering one of these petitions the vehicle of an offensive calumny against the subjects and Government of Great Britain.

In support of these allegations the accompanying extracts of despatches received from Beyrout are submitted to the candid and serious consideration of the Reis Effendi. They are the testimonies of the British Consul-General in Syria, of one, who, alike in battle and in council, has deserved the good opinion, the gratitude of the Porte, who enjoys the full confidence of his own Government, and who leaves no effort unmade to serve the interests of this empire in concert with the Turkish authority, and to strengthen the Sultan's hold upon the allegiance and affections of the mountain tribes in Syria.

The Ambassador, no less than Colonel Rose himself, is ready to pay

the utmost deference to the sovereign authority of the Sultan. He advocates no other principle. But he must be allowed to conform with the Representatives of other Powers, a friendship with the Porte, to cease a warfare once against measures which are evidently undermining the best interests of the Porte. He cannot repeat his protest against interference on behalf of those to whom the word of his Government has been pledged, and who fought so nobly for the recovery of their Sovereign's rights. He cannot abandon the name and credit of his country to the wanton assertions of an individual whose only title to respect is the public character with which he is unfortunately invested, and who carries on the administration of power the same corrupt practices which previously brought him under the judgment of a criminal court.

The Ambassador trusts that these representations wrong from him by a partial and untruthful account will not be in vain, and that his Government will have the consolation of knowing that the Porte is seriously resolved to remedy the evils now pointed out, and to remove without delay so just a cause of complaint and of deep dissatisfaction.

I am, &c,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure 11 in No. 53.

The Baron de Stürmer to M. de Teste.

23 Février, 1842

JE viens de recevoir par un bateau à vapeur Anglais arrivé de Beyrout, les rapports relatifs à M. l'Ambassadeur d'après lesquels la Syrie commande à l'Empire Ottoman des succès, et des devoirs d'un Gouverneur Pacha au Gouvernement de la Montagne. J'extrais ci-joint une lettre que ce personnage m'a adressée à votre Consulat Général et que vous voudrez bien transmettre à son Excellence Sarim Effendi, servant à faire connaître à la Sublime Porte qu'Omar Pacha se comporte envers les habitants du Liban d'une manière qui ne peut que leur rendre odieuse la domination Ottomane.

Il m'est revenu d'autre part, que le dit Gouverneur prend à tâche d'aggraver toute occasion dans un sens hostile au Gouvernement Britannique, auquel il voudrait imputer l'arrière-pensée de s'emparer de la Syrie. Le Ministère Ottoman est trop éclairé pour ne pas sentir toute l'absurdité et toute l'injustice d'une pareille imputation, et pour ne pas convenir qu'il y aurait de l'ingratitude à reconnaître le prix ou à suspecter les motifs des services que l'Angleterre a rendus, en dernier lieu, à la cause légitime du Sultan.

Vous aurez à fixer l'attention de son Excellence Sarim Effendi sur les dangers de plus d'un genre qui peuvent résulter de la conduite si peu loyale et si peu prudente d'Omar Pacha en Syrie, conduite qui ne peut manquer d'y rallumer le feu à peine éteint de la révolte, d'aggraver les esprits des autres sujets Chrétiens du Sultan, et d'aliéner à la Sublime Porte les sympathies de l'Europe.

No. 54

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning

(No. 26.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 24, 1842

I RECEIVED on the 21st instant, and I have laid before the Queen, your Excellency's despatches from No. 24 to No. 41 of the 26th of February, both inclusive, and I have great satisfaction in acquainting your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government

T

entirely approve the course which you have adopted with reference to the several questions alluded to in those despatches. Her Majesty's Government are especially satisfied with the manner in which, as reported in your despatch No. 39, you called the attention of the Porte to the conduct of Omar Pasha. They hope that the Porte will, in consequence of your representation, adopt the measure which a regard for its own interests, no less than respect for a friendly Power imperatively calls for, and dispossess Omar Pasha from the post which he so unworthily fills. But, in the event of this matter not having been brought to a satisfactory result, when you receive my present despatch, your Excellency will consider yourself authorized to state to the Porte that Her Majesty's Government have learnt with deep concern that the Turkish Governor of the Lebanon has ventured to propagate unfounded and malicious reports against the British Government, and has endeavoured to rouse against a British subject the prejudices of the Mahometan and Christian inhabitants of Syria. Your Excellency will state distinctly to the Turkish Ministers, that Her Majesty's Government must hold the Porte responsible for any harm which shall befall Bishop Alexander in consequence of the unwarrantable proceedings of Omar Pasha, more especially as Her Majesty's Government have asked of the Porte for Bishop Alexander nothing but what they are entitled to demand for any other British subject.

With regard to the general question of the ill-treatment of the Syrian Christians by Omar Pasha and the other Turkish authorities, your Excellency will warn the Porte against the supposition that the Christian Powers will tolerate any system of persecution directed against any of the Sultan's subjects. The Porte is under an obligation to the Powers who signed the Treaty of the 15th of July, 1840, to fulfil the promises which it authorized the Representatives of those Powers to make, not as the Porte has alleged, to the Emir Beshir Shehab alone, but to all classes who are entitled to their Sovereign's protection and assistance, in maintaining his authority; and the Porte cannot suppose that the Powers will be indifferent to the welfare of a people, whose fidelity and courage contributed so essentially to the successful termination of the contest in Syria.

Her Majesty's Government regret to see that, instead of evincing a disposition to respect its own engagements, and to enable its allies to fulfil those which, relying on the good faith of the Porte, they made on its behalf, the Porte seeks to evade the performance of its promises, by broadly alleging that the complaints of the Foreign Agents in Syria against the conduct of the Turkish authorities, are wholly destitute of foundation. The Porte will not succeed in persuading the Powers that such is the case, when the concurrent testimony of all persons who are not in the service of the Porte, and are, therefore, not interested witnesses, denounces the conduct of the Turkish authorities in Syria as unjust and oppressive towards the Christians, and calculated to perpetuate the dissensions and the calamities which have so severely afflicted the Lebanon districts.

With regard to the particular case mentioned in Colonel Rose's despatch to Mr. Bankhead, of the 12th of February, from which it appears that the property of the late Emir Beshir El-Kassim had been forcibly seized by a Druse Governor, on whom the Turkish authorities have conferred the administration of the Emir's property, your Excellency will state to the Turkish Government, that Her Majesty's Government confidently expect that the Porte will send immediate orders to Syria for the reinstatement of that lady in her possessions. The Grand Vizier,

reported in your despatch, No. 20, of the 16th of February, did not pretend that the Emir Beshir El-Kassim had committed any crime which would authorize the confiscation of his property. On the contrary, it appears that he is allowed to present to the commission about to be assembled at Beyrout, his claim to compensation for the destruction of his property during the civil war. It is the height of injustice, therefore, that the property which escaped from the fury of his enemies, should now be wrested from him, and his family, by the same Government of a Turkish Governor; and your Excellency will not disguise from the Porte, that this fresh act of violence and injustice committed against a person to

whose loyalty the Sultan is so deeply indebted, is calculated to produce in this country a feeling of indignation, which it is certainly far from the interest of the Porte to allow to be entertained by the British nation or Government.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN

No. 55

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 4.)

No. 48.

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 9, 1842

THE Internuncio called upon me this morning and read to me, in confidence, part of an instruction which he had just received by the Vienna post from Prince Metternich. The despatch refers to the recent occurrences in Mount Lebanon, and particularly to the appointment of a Turkish Pasha to place of the deposed Emir. Prince Metternich had not received the Internuncio's report of our simultaneous representation to the Porte on that subject; but, notwithstanding this circumstance, the expression of his Highness's opinion derives an additional interest from the indication which he had given in a previous instruction, of some degree of leaning in favour of the Turkish appointment. In the despatch communicated to me by Baron Sturmer, Prince Metternich passes in review the principal facts and considerations, upon which a definitive judgment will eventually have to be grounded; he vindicates the right of interference by those Powers who took so active a part in the restoration of Syria to the Sultan; and he describes the recent change in the Government of Mount Lebanon as an event which cannot fail to occupy the attention of the leading European Powers.

To us, the Representatives of those Powers here, who, anticipating the instructions of our respective Courts, have not hesitated to address the Porte in terms already submitted to your Lordship, this indication of the views of the Austrian Government is very encouraging. It is not that it will prove the forerunner of instructions calculated to strengthen our hands, and to enable us to bring back the Porte more completely to a sense of what she owes, as well to her own interests, as to the inhabitants of Syria, and to the Powers who recovered that province for the Sultan.

I was under the necessity of allowing the "Phoenix" to return to Beyrout without any decisive declaration of the Turkish Government on this question. Your Lordship will have the goodness to excuse me if I reserve my explanations for a few days. I propose to write more at length by an express, which, as far as I can foresee, will set out on the 15th. The present opportunity does not afford me sufficient time for the purpose.

The Porte has issued orders for sending four or five thousand Albanians into Syria. This reinforcement may be necessary for the maintenance of her authority in that country, but there is much reason to fear that it will prove a cruel scourge to the inhabitants of the mountain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 41.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 6, 1842

HER Majesty's Government have seen with regret, in the concluding passage of your Excellency's despatch, No. 18, of the 9th of March, that the Porte has issued orders for sending into Syria a large Albanian force. The excesses of which the troops of that description were guilty at the close of the Syrian campaign, and which gave occasion for strong remonstrances being made by the British agents in Syria, to the Turkish authorities there, and by Viscount Ponsonby directly to the Turkish Government, fully justify the apprehensions expressed by your Excellency, that the presence of the Albanian reinforcements in Syria will prove a severe calamity to the inhabitants of that country.

Her Majesty's Government (of course) do not assume to themselves the right of prescribing to the Porte what peculiar description of force it should employ in any part of the Turkish dominions, but they consider that your Excellency may, without impropriety, take an opportunity of reminding the Porte of the just complaints which the conduct of the Albanians in Syria gave rise to a short time ago, and of expressing, unofficially, the hope of Her Majesty's Government, that measures will be taken for maintaining such a degree of discipline among the forces now about to be sent, as may secure the people of Syria from a repetition of the outrages which Albanian troops are in the habit of committing in the countries where they are employed.

Your Excellency will find some reference to the conduct of the Albanians, in Syria, in Lord Ponsonby's despatches, Nos. 72, 83, and 85, of the 22nd of February, and 3rd and 6th of March, 1841.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) ABERDEEN

No. 57

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 12.)

(No. 54.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 16, 1842

I HAVE still sufficient motives to abstain from entering at any length upon the affairs of Syria, which continue to be under discussion at the Porte, and respecting which no recent intelligence of interest has reached me from Beyrout or Damascus. It is the intention of the Porte to send down a person of confidence, in the character of Envoy or Commissioner, as a kind of assessor to Mustapha Pasha, with the view of obtaining fresh information, and reconsidering the whole question subsequently at Constantinople.

On being informed of this intention, I requested that it might be communicated to the Representatives of the Five Powers, and Sarim Effendi has promised to comply with this request. He has already, indeed, announced it verbally to the Internuncio and the French Minister, as well as to myself.

I have earnestly and repeatedly endeavoured to prevail upon him to accompany the intended communication, which is to be in writing, with some satisfactory assurance as to the employment of the Albanian troops directed, to the amount of 4,000 or 5,000 men, upon Syria; and also, as to the restoration of the ancient privileges of Mount Lebanon, on the occasion of a definitive settlement. The language of Sarim Effendi induces me to hope that these recommendations have not been urged in vain; but I

cannot venture to rely with confidence upon the impression which it is calculated to convey.

The Porte has exhibited so much reluctance to pledge itself, in the slightest degree, to the restoration of the deposed family, and its anxiety to send fresh troops into Syria is so apparent, that unless the assurances which I have recommended, be given, it will be difficult for me to abandon the suspicion, that her only object in sending a confidential agent to Mustapha Pasha is to gain time, and, by acting upon the fears of the people, whether Christians or Druses, to establish that appearance of tranquillity which may justify the assertion that her measures have succeeded, and that there is no reason to insist upon a return to the old state of things.

With respect to the Albanians, I have spared no pains to obtain, if not an entire change of their destination, at least such a distribution of their numbers along the coast of Syria, and principally at Acre, as might relieve the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon from any immediate danger of being brought into contact with them.

I have reason to believe that the Internuncio has made very decided exertions for the same purpose, and the French Minister has also made similar representations to the Res Effendi.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

No. 58.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 12.)

(No. 56.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 17, 1842

I AVAIL myself of an express despatched by the Internuncio to overtake the Vienna post which started this morning, in order to transmit to your Lordship the communication which the Porte had announced its intention of making to the Representatives of the Five Powers, respecting the affairs of Syria. I did not receive it till late in the evening.

On the subject of the Albanians, the Porte has thought proper to keep a profound silence as far as this paper is concerned; and with respect to the ancient privileges of Mount Lebanon, your Lordship will perceive that their restoration is very faintly and imperfectly shadowed out. There is, nevertheless, enough to indicate the sense of a necessity, if not of an obligation, to keep them in view; and, with the twofold advantage now obtained, of a deliberate reconsideration of the whole subject, and of a friendly communication with the Allied Powers thereon, it remains with the Powers themselves so to press that sense of necessity home to the conviction of the Turkish Government, as eventually to produce a rational and satisfactory result.

Selim Bey is the son of Veli, formerly Pasha of the Morea, and son of Ali Pasha of Yanina. M. Pimani informs me that he was formerly Muhassil of Smyrna, and was lately sent down to Bosnia with a commission similar to that which is now intrusted to him.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure in No. 56

Sarim Effendi to Sir Stratford Canning

(Traduction.)

LES Ministres de la Sublime Porte ne font pas difficulté d'entendre les communications sincères faites de vive voix et par écrit, et uniquement en genre d'observation, par les Missions des Cinq Hautes Puissances amies et alliées de la Sublime Porte, relativement au Mont Liban.

La Sublime Porte ne cesse un instant de songer aux mesures permanentes et énergiques propres à assurer la tranquillité de la Syrie, et le repos de ses habitants.

Mais comme les notices que la Sublime Porte acquiert, soit directement, soit par l'intermédiaire des Missions, sur les affaires de la Syrie, ne s'accordent pas les unes avec les autres, il a été jugé à propos de se procurer là-dessus de nouveaux renseignements, et son Excellence Veli Pacha Zâde Selim Bey, un des grands personnages de la Sublime Porte, a été chargé de cette mission spéciale.

Le Bey doit se rendre auprès de son Altesse le Séraskir Pacha avec des connaissances suffisantes et les instructions nécessaires, et retourner avec une connaissance parfaite de l'état des affaires. Alors la Sublime Porte fera connaître aux Missions des Cours amies et les renseignements obtenus, et les mesures à prendre en conséquence; et l'on adoptera un système arrêté.

Quant à Omar Pacha, on ne tient guère à sa personne, ce qui a été fait étant une mesure dictée par les circonstances, et adoptée par celui qui était chargé d'une mission.

Il est superflu de dire qu'après les renseignements positifs qu'on a eus, de la même manière que l'on ne perd pas de vue les faveurs accordées à toutes les classes de sujets dans les bases de l'administration qui seront établies conformément à l'indépendance de la Sublime Porte, on ne refuse rien à ces ministres d'Etat des faveurs propres à le contenter, et qui sont le chef de la souveraineté et de son autorité pour le dessein de ces Rois.

Le 5 Safar, 1258 (17 Mars, 1842)

N.B. Having referred the original paper to Mr. Alhain, he gives the following version of the two last paragraphs, as being a more exact translation of the Turkish

translation of the Turkish
"With regard to Omar Pasha, personally, the Sublime Porte attaches no importance to the question. His appointment was viewed by the Seraskier as a matter of expediency; and His Highness the Sultan will, in like manner, graciously extend to the Lebanese the same favour and sentiments of duty, with regard to the form of administration to be hereafter established (consistently with the independence of the Sublime Porte), upon the intelligence received (by Selim Bey) as may prompt him to respect the Imperial concessions granted in favour of all classes of His Majesty's subjects.

two Governments, but the despatches brought from Syria by the *Produx*, the intrigues, in which force and fraud were employed, as was employed by Omar Pasha; the danger of fresh troubles, partially realized since, and also the manner in which it had been sought to foil our benevolent views, and to compromise our national character, concurred in my judgment to prescribe a different and more irksome line of duty.

Your Lordship is already informed of the communication which I made to the Porte, immediately after the arrival of the "Peregrine". The resolute and angry discussions which ensued, were not of a duration. On the 28th I paid a reciprocal visit which I have been disposed to be the day before from Syria. I then accompanied by the Dragoman to the Porte and the Ambassador. The result of this interview was the establishment of a permanent understanding between the Porte and myself. The Russians declaring that the Government had no intention to my views on the matter of Syria. That they would support my position as far as was possible to know my opinion as to the mode of supplying his place, subsequently arriving at a final settlement of the country. It appeared that the Porte had two plans in view, to a) a) a) the effect of a permanent character. The practical feature of this project was, first upon the removal of Omar Pasha, the five districts of Mount Lebanon should be severally placed under the government of a Christian of a Druze and of a Turk according to the religion of the respective inhabitants, a Turkish Governor being designated for places of mixed population. The latter consisted in the appointment of a Turkish Pasha, with a Christian Governor over the whole of Syria, the re-estabishment of a Christian Government in the Mountain being left as a future reprobation. It was evident that the Porte had resolved for the instant upon a new policy, and I have been disposed to believe that my advice was thus confidentially received.

The latter was in consequence of which my advice was thus confidentially solicited, required mature deliberation, and it was not, therefore, till a day or two after the interview with Sarim Effendi that I sent in the memorandum, of which a copy is herewith enclosed.

I did not feel at liberty to commit the subject to the press and leagues in the diplomatic body, but I talked over the situation with the Internuncio, who alone, beside myself, has received dispatches from Syria by the "Phoenix," and consequently had taken cognizance of the matter at the Porte.

to the Porte, with the view of procuring an acknowledgment of her authority and the revocation of the Edict of 1793. I have not overstepped the line of propriety or of pride. It appeared to me that the occasion was not one to be thrown aside. By accepting the appeal to my opinion, I gain an additional chance of accelerating the settlement of affairs in Syria, without the surrender of my position as one of the Five Representatives, and with the advantage of preparing the ground for a more effective execution of our instructions when they should arrive.

At the end of a week I received a confidential answer from the Reis Effendi, and it is my duty to report its contents to your Lordship's information. The purpose of a subsequent visit of the Reis Effendi to the British suggestion, was subsequently addressed to the Reis Effendi by the British Five Powers, and duly transmitted at the time in my numbered correspondence to your Lordship. My earnest and repeated endeavours to prevail upon the Porte to insert in this more official document some positive assurance that the privileges of the Christians should not be overlooked in the final adjustment of Syrian affairs, produced the concluding passage, and nothing more. Even a smaller degree of success attended my efforts to obtain a satisfactory declaration respecting the employment of Armenians in the Syrian army. The Reis Effendi has now most emphatically stated that the Porte is not prepared to employ Armenians in the Syrian army, and that the only way in which they can be employed is in the garrison of the coast, or exchanged, as I had more specially recommended, for the garrison of

St Jean d'Acre, and confined to the ramparts of that fortress. Though they were originally intended to amount to 5,000 or 6,000 men, the accounts in circulation limit them to little more than half that number. The mortality of the regular forces in Syria is the motive assigned for this reinforcement; and such is the waste of life in most Turkish regiments, that the effect is quite in keeping with the cause.

That your Lordship may have a more complete knowledge of the efforts made and the arguments employed to carry those objects, I further inclose copies of a memorandum sent to the Reis Effendi, in reply to his confidential communication dated the 8th instant, and of an instruction addressed by me to M. Pisani, and left with his Excellency, respecting the Arabian troops.

The receipt of the note verbale or memorandum transmitted by Sarim Effendi to the Ministers of the Five Powers, concluded this stage of our intercourse on the subject of Syria.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 59.

Sir Stratford Canning's confidential reply to the Porte's request for advice on the state of Syria, communicated to Sarim Effendi on the 2nd March, 1842

THERE is nothing really to prevent the immediate restoration of the Shehab family. The question of the indemnities might equally be settled by Mustapha Pasha; and by giving the Druses a representative at Deir-el-Kammar, and another at the Porte, any objection they may have to returning under the sway of a Christian Prince would be overcome. A Turkish officer, in communication with the Pasha of Saida, might be stationed at Deir-el-Kammar, for the double purpose of observing the state of affairs there and obtaining, in case of necessity, a more prompt support from the Pasha at the Emir's demand. Every desirable object would thus be provided for.

With respect to a provisional arrangement, the appointment of another Pasha in place of Omar, whose removal has been decided upon, is liable to great objections; but the Seraskier might himself be ordered to Deir-el-Kammar for the settlement of the indemnities, and during his stay there the mountain tribes might be governed by separate chiefs in each of the five districts: a Christian for the Christians, a Druse for the Druses, and where the population is mixed, a Christian or a Druse, according as the numbers of either preponderate.

In this case it would be essential for the Porte to declare that the arrangement was only temporary, and that the welfare and ancient privileges of the inhabitants would not be overlooked in coming to a permanent settlement.

Inclosure 2 in No. 59

Paper communicated confidentially by Sarim Effendi to Sir Stratford Canning, on the 5th March, 1842

(Translation.)

THE two papers communicated confidentially to us by Sir Stratford Canning, containing reflections on two measures respecting the permanent and temporary administration of Mount Lebanon, were received with great pleasure.

They were yesterday laid before a Council of the Ministers, and the question, which of the two measures resulting from the consideration afforded by the Ambassador to the affair of the internal administration of the Sublime Porte, it were preferable to adopt, and whether it were appli-

cable to the present state of things, occupied their mature attention. After a protracted conversation on the subject, and the communication of information by a gentleman, who is well acquainted with the Lebanon, on its present posture of affairs, and on the character and disposition of its inhabitants, they were strongly impressed with the apprehension of the present state of tranquillity being changed for one of strife and bloodshed. In good truth, the Ambassador himself concurred in this opinion, to a certain degree, when the subject was discussed with him. Both the Ambassador and ourselves have formed our ideas from despatches come from afar. It is only, therefore, wise to acquire, in the first place, information on the spot, of the real state, merits, and tendency of affairs; to form a general opinion on that information; and, should it not be applicable, to adopt another in its place, without having cause for repentance, but it is also considered inexpedient to interfere with the mission of the Seraskier, who was sent into Syria with full confidence and special powers for the purpose of restoring the desired order and tranquillity of that country. The present state of the Lebanon is the result of his measures, and Omar Pasha was appointed under his authority. The Sublime Porte, therefore, addresses herself to him alone on the affairs of Syria. Now, although the conflicting statements on the charges of misconduct brought against Omar Pasha are not of a nature to establish their reality, yet it is clear that the Seraskier can do without him. This matter will, therefore, be submitted to him in all its bearings, and he will do whatever he deems proper in his place; (in Omar's, when deposed.)

The Conference at last came to this resolution:—

That the Porte should come to a permanent decision (or settlement) on a question of such delicacy and importance, having a due regard to the mission of the Seraskier on the one hand, and the view of expediting the desired accomplishment of matters on the other. A person, therefore, of confidence and abilities will be sent to the Seraskier, to communicate fully to him the contents of the despatches hitherto received; the conferences had by the Minister; the communications (argumentations) had with the Foreign Representatives; and, above all, the conversation and correspondence had with his Excellency the Ambassador. He will be furnished with special despatches recapitulating the views of the Sublime Porte, and he will return here the moment he has acquired a full knowledge of things. The matter will then be communicated to the Foreign Representatives, and suitable measures will be taken.

Such is the result of the Conference, and as the agent of the Porte is about to be appointed and to proceed in a steamer of war, it is confidentially communicated to the Ambassador for his information.

Inclosure 3 in No. 59

Sir Stratford Canning to Sarim Effendi.

I FULLY appreciate the confidential manner in which the Reis Effendi has apprised me of the Porte's intentions respecting Syria. By relying on the friendly sentiments of Great Britain, the Porte consults her true interests, at the same time that she renders justice where it is due. I am willing, on my side, to believe that if the Council has not adopted all my suggestions at once, the delay is only a momentary want of complete information and to the fear of those difficulties, which I have proposed the means of counteracting. I observe, meanwhile, with pleasure, that the views of the Allied Powers, and the character and interests of the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon are taken into serious consideration by the Porte, that they will be still further considered on the spot, in concert with Mustapha Pasha; and that they are to form, together with what concerns the Sultan's authority and the establishment of quiet in Syria, the elements of a satisfactory and definitive settlement. I am glad also to perceive that the Porte is not so much disposed to advantage and danger of delay, the more to be deprecated, as recent accounts from

Damascus announce a fresh attack of the Druses upon the Christians, attended with the loss of several lives, and not opposed by Omar Pasha and his troops, though present.

My satisfaction, however, would have been much greater if the Porte had spoken more distinctly of its intention to respect the ancient privileges of Mount Lebanon, and to restore its inhabitants to the enjoyment of them. In friendship, in duty to the Porte, I cannot disguise my conviction that no arrangement, excluding the restoration of an intermediate Christian Government, where it so existed through a long succession of years, will be either satisfactory or durable. I repeat, that to have those qualities—the settlement, while it reposes in part on the Sultan's authority maintained in the least expensive and oppressive manner possible, must also rest upon the contentment of the inhabitants and the acquiescence of the Christian Powers, who, on various accounts, have such strong motives and so rightful a claim to watch over the interests of Syria.

As to the provisional tranquillity of the country, the presence of a military force sufficient to secure the ends of justice and to keep the violent and ill-disposed in awe, is, no doubt, desirable. But, it is to be feared that the employment of Albanians and the irregular troops will be productive of anything but good. Their character is known, the atrocities committed by them in Bulgaria are not forgotten. The mountaineers of Syria will view them with hatred, in the spirit of rivalry rather than of dread. If the exigencies of the service are such that they cannot be altogether dispensed with, I implore the Porte to consider well the consequences of introducing them, without the most urgent necessity, into the districts of the Mountain. More sanguinary scenes proceeding from such a source would only serve to throw the province into inextricable disorder and to alienate the Christian Powers. I venture to submit that the Albanians, if they land in Syria, should be put into separate cantonments in the plain, and not allowed to pass into the mountains. His Excellency the Reis Effendi will allow me to put this suggestion with the more earnestness, because I fear that any fresh confusion, or acts of cruelty proceeding from troops, sent into Syria from a distance by the Porte's immediate orders, would seriously compromise her character and interests.

Pera, March 9, 1842

Inclosure 4 in No. 59.

Sir Stratford Canning to M. Pisani

I WAS not aware till this moment, when the correspondence of last year was placed before me, that Albanian troops had already been employed in Syria; that their atrocious conduct had raised the inhabitants against them; that the Grand Vizier himself, then Seraskier in Syria, had ordered their removal on the demand of Lord Ponsonby; and that the British Government, not satisfied with their gradual removal, had insisted upon its being immediate.

With the knowledge of these circumstances, I must be allowed to express my regret that the Porte has not been more explicit in its communications to Syria, and it becomes my indispensable duty to warn the Porte of the impression which such a measure will have, not only upon my Government but upon all Europe, and to implore most earnestly that the Sultan's pleasure may be expressly taken, in connexion with my earnest representations upon the subject.

M. Pisani will translate the above to his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and will request that it may be submitted immediately by him to the Grand Vizier.

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Sunday, March 13, 1842.

No. 60

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 66.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 27, 1842.

PERMIT me to repeat to your Lordship my interest respecting the deposition of the Emir Bey, and to express my sincere sympathy and kindness to his applications for support. I have been gratified by M. Pisani, on several occasions, to express both to the Grand Vizier and to Sarim Effendi, the interest which I felt for the unfortunate Emir. I have since renewed my representations in his favour, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, and having received a visit from the Emir himself, I availed myself of the occasion to assure him that my good offices were entirely at his disposal for the recovery of his property, and the acquisition of any other object which he might have to solicit at the Porte, for his protection or comfort.

I was careful, at the same time, to hold out no hope that Her Majesty's Government would be inclined to procure his reinstatement in the administration of Mount Lebanon, and, indeed, it was evident that he entertained no wish of the kind; and I was not sorry to observe that he appeared himself to be aware of the inexpediency, on political grounds, of his remaining in the present disturbed state of affairs.

The Porte has required of him to name an agent for the verification of his claims before the tribunal appointed, or rather to be appointed, by Mustapha Pasha.

He told me that the Porte had made him an offer of pecuniary assistance, though in some way that implied more responsibility than advantage for he declined the offer, and informed me that, as he had the whole of his appointments due to him while Emir to claim, he thought it better, under his present circumstances, to take nothing on account.

The Reis Effendi consented that he should be allowed to leave Constantinople, if he preferred to reside at Brussa for instance, but he purposed to remain for the present at Constantinople.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 61

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 71.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 29, 1842.

IT IS clear there is but too much reason to apprehend that the Porte is mainly seeking to gain time, by the appointment of Selim Bey for the investigation of the affairs of Mount Lebanon. He is still here, and I have not heard that any day is fixed for his departure.

In the mean time, our latest accounts from Syria are as unsatisfactory as the preceding ones. Your Lordship will, no doubt, have received direct intelligence from that quarter, of the same dates as mine, before this despatch can reach England. I inclose, nevertheless, herewith, an abstract of the principal incidents communicated by Colonel Rose. I have sent it in to the Reis Effendi, and I have also made my colleagues acquainted with its contents, suggesting to them the expediency of making a similar communication to the Porte.

The Reis Effendi, satisfied with the statements transmitted by Mustapha Pasha, makes light of ours, as if they were exaggerated. It may be, but it is singular if my colleagues should receive accounts of the

same purport as mine, and that the Russian Consul at Beyrout, should also be a party to the same exaggerations. Monsieur Basili particularly mentions the emigration of nearly all of the Christian inhabitants from Deir-el-Kammar to Beyrout and Saïda.

Mr. Moore and Mr. Wood agree with Colonel Rose, and the other Consuls at Beyrout, in describing the revived fanaticism of the Turks, their mistrust and increasing hatred of everything Christian, and their secret preparations for defence against foreign aggression or internal commotion.

I quite despair of being able to effect any further change in the councils of the Porte until the receipt of instructions from Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure in No. 61

Substance of Colonel Rose's Despatches from Syria.

SINCE the arrival of Mustapha Pasha, disorder in this country is on the increase. A most violent outrage has been committed by the Druses upon the Christians at Deir-el-Kammar, in which many of the Christians were severely wounded by clubs, and 300 of them have been obliged to save themselves by flight. Omar Pasha, although having an ample force at his disposal, looked on with the greatest indifference, and Mustapha Pasha himself showed no sympathy for the Christians, but treated the affair lightly. The Druses despise the authority of Omar Pasha, in defiance of which they have usurped the lands of Emir-el-Cassim, and of numerous other Christians. The state of the Christians is most deplorable: 15,000 of them are homeless, and 20,000 have been compelled to desert their villages: 4,000 have already petitioned the Consuls for the merciful interposition, on their behalf, of the foreign Representatives at Constantinople. The Albanians and the irregular cavalry maltreat and plunder them. They have pillaged one of their churches, and the Christians dare not even perform their devotions in them.

Their petition for a Christian ruler, Mustapha Pasha has refused to forward to Constantinople. He excites the minds of the Turks against them by the most inflammatory language, and the greatest armed activity prevails among the Moslems, who are being organized for, it is said, the object of subduing the Christians entirely. In the mean time, several of their chief men have been confined by Omar Pasha as hostages, or for purposes of intimidation; they are subjected to forced labour for the repairs of Acre: the Jesuit Mission has been stopped by Mustapha Pasha, and intelligence from Egypt would appear to sanction the belief that the Porte meditates the entire expulsion of the Shehab family from Syria. Everything indicates a return to ancient fanaticism. Christians are not admitted into the local shouras. Police measures for raising funds are enforced against them. Attempts have ever been made to compel the European subjects to contribute to them; and it is asserted that secret orders have been received from the Porte for withholding justice from foreigners, so as to induce them to abandon the country, and leave their fellow-Christians to their misery and degradation.

No. 62

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 45.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 23, 1842

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch, No. 71, of the 29th of March, inclosing an abstract of the reports which you have received from Colonel Rose, and stating that the accounts which the Ministers of the other Powers receive from their agents in Syria, agree with those which Colonel Rose has transmitted to your Excellency of the unsatisfactory state of affairs in that province.

As my despatches, No. 24 and 26 of the 16th and 24th of March, which your Excellency will have received by this time, contain full instructions for your conduct and language with regard to the affairs of Syria, I have only to refer you to those despatches, and to express my hope that the language which you are therein authorized to hold, may produce a salutary effect on the councils of the Porte.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN

No. 63.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 28.)

No. 74.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 7, 1842

THE Prussian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me yesterday, and put into my hands the instructions of his Government, signed by Monsieur Canitz, in answer to his account of the proceeding relative to Syria, which was adopted in February by the Representatives of the Five Powers at this Court.

Although the Prussian Cabinet expresses its approbation of that step, Monsieur Wagner is not authorized to place himself on the same rank with his colleagues, should they be instructed to recommend the reinstatement of the Shehab family in the administration of Mount Lebanon.

I concluded, however, from the assurances with which he accompanied his communication, that he feels himself at liberty to support in his own way any step which we may eventually be called upon to take in relation to the affairs of Syria, and that he will take great care to observe the opinion of the Porte, the shade of difference which, under his instructions, is likely to exist between his mode of proceeding and that of his colleagues.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

No. 64

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 75.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 7, 1842

I HAVE this morning received information from Mr. Canitz, the Prussian Chargé d'Affaires, that he has been instructed to give the assurance that there is no objection to the Prussian Government's assent to the reinstatement of the Shehab family in the administration of Mount Lebanon, and particularly to a more satisfactory state of affairs in Syria.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

P. S. Nejib Pasha goes to Bagdad in place of Ali Riza Pasha, who takes the Pashalik of Damascus. The Reis Effendi affirms that there is no other change whatever in the matter.

No. 65.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 27)

(No. 76. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 7, 1842

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for the more complete information of Her Majesty's Government, the copies inclosed herewith, of two reports addressed to the Internuncio by his interpreter at the Porte. Baron de Stürmer, in communicating these reports to me, did not restrict me from taking up such points as I thought so and transmitting them to your Lordship. I feel it to be right to give them a confidential character. I am greatly indebted to your Lordship's despatch not only with its interest but also to the Grand Vizir, on this occasion. Your Lordship has kindly laid to be struck with the indications which it betrays of the general system of policy adopted by the present administration of this country.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 65.

Baron Testa to Baron de Stürmer

Pera, 6 April, 1842

JE passais ce matin à 9 heures par un des carrefours de Constantinople nommé Erisad Bazar, lorsque je m'entendis appeler à plusieurs reprises par mon nom. Je me tournai et aperçus au fond d'une méchante boutique de Tulendje (vendeur de tabac), un Turc qui fumait sa pipe et me faisait signe de l'approcher. Ce ne fut que lorsque je me trouvai tout près de lui que je reconnus le Grand Vizir, qui était là incognito. Il m'engagea à m'asseoir près de lui, me fit donner une pipe et du café, et me retint au-delà de trois quarts d'heure, pendant lesquels il causa avec le plus grand abandon.

Il me parla d'abord du plaisir qu'il avait à observer inaperçu tous les passans, grands et petits, ajoutant que c'était là un excellent moyen pour bien connaître le peuple, tant en masse, qu'individuellement.

La conversation tomba bientôt sur la politique, et conséquemment sur les affaires de la Syrie. Je profitai de cette occasion pour lui faire à peu près les mêmes observations que j'ai faites à Sarim Effendi. Il m'interrompait souvent et parlait quelquefois avec beaucoup de vivacité.

"Cher M. Testa," me dit-il entre autres, "je sais que vous êtes capable de juger ces sortes d'affaires avec impartialité. Convenez donc qu'on en use singulièrement envers nous. N'a-t-on rien de mieux à faire en Europe qu'à se mêler de nos affaires intérieures et de descendre jusqu'aux plus petits détails. Voyez la France. Elle est en butte à une révolution perpétuelle qui devrait fixer de préférence l'attention de son Gouvernement sur elle-même. Ph. Lamou n'en parle presque pas et l'on vient ici se faire du mauvais sang en ramassant de faux bruits inventés par des esprits oisifs ou malveillans. Croyez-moi, ce n'est pas là la vraie manière d'agir. Si on nous veut réellement du bien, il faut nous laisser un peu les coudées franches. J'ai vu la Syrie de mes propres yeux, j'ai causé longuement avec les Emirs, Cheiks, et autres personnages influens de tous les partis. Eh bien, je vous jure par le vrai et unique

Dieu (et nous n'avons pas dans notre religion de serment plus solennel) j'ai acquis la conviction que soumettre les Druses à un Prince Chrétien, ce serait livrer la population Chrétienne de la Montagne à une destruction certaine. Vous citez le passé, mais ignorez-vous que le Prince Ferid-Békir, lorsqu'il a été nommé Prince, était Musulman, et que plus tard seulement il a embrassé le Christianisme? Tout récemment encore il avait dans son Harem et sans que personne le sût, une mosquée où il faisait ses dévotions."

"Ceci," repris-je, "est un motif de plus pour réhabiliter la famille Chéhab; puisqu'elle est Musulmane au fond du cœur, elle ne peut qu'être agréable aux Druses, qui se montrent si favorables à l'Islamisme, quoique ce ne soit pas leur religion."

"Je sais bien," reprit le Grand Vizir, "que les Druses ne remplissent point les devoirs extérieurs du culte Mahométan, mais il n'en est pas moins vrai qu'ils prétendent être Musulmans et qu'ils veulent avoir pour Gouverneur un homme qui professe ouvertement leur religion. Les Consuls Européens en Syrie savent tout cela fort bien, mais il paraît qu'ils n'en informent pas leurs Chefs, je ne sais pour quelle raison."

"Vous disiez tantôt, que la nouvelle de l'arrivée prochaine des Albanais avait répandu la terreur parmi les Montagnards; c'est donc précisément ce qu'il nous faut. Nous sommes faibles en Syrie, vous le savez, et si on ne nous craint point nous ne pourrions pas la gouverner. Les habitans de ce pays là sont indociles et presque sauvages, et quand on a affaire avec eux, on reconnaît la vérité de l'axiome: 'Le lion est un don qui nous est venu du ciel.' Le désarmement est une mesure générale par laquelle le Gouvernement retire les fusils qu'il a distribués à la Landwehr Syrienne lors de la dernière guerre. Ne fait-on pas la même chose en Prusse. Les Syriens n'ont plus à combattre Méhémet Ali. A quoi leur serviraient donc ces armes, qui sont d'ailleurs la propriété de l'Etat? Voudraient-ils par hasard s'en servir contre nous?"

Le Grand Vizir m'a chargé, en me quittant, de présenter ses complimens à votre Excellence. Il partit, accompagné d'un seul homme, étant toutefois suivi, à une distance de cent pas environ, de deux gardes, et de quatre à cinq domestiques.

Inclosure 2 in No. 65.

Baron Testa to Baron de Stürmer

Pera, ce 6 Avril, 1842.

J'AI vu ce matin Sarim Effendi, et d'après les ordres de votre Excellence, je lui ai communiqué en résumé le contenu des derniers rapports de M. d'Adelbourg.

"Les rapports parvenus à la Porte," m'a dit Sarim Effendi, "ne font pas mention des inconvéniens et des dangers que signale votre Consul-Général. Au contraire, ils représentent la situation de la Syrie comme parfaitement satisfaisante. Quant au Séraskir, je ne puis ajouter une fin aux bruits d'après lesquels il exciterait les Musulmans contre les Chrétiens, et chercherait à effacer le souvenir des services que les Princes Européennes ont récemment rendus à la Sublime Porte."

Les services ont été et sont encore parfaitement appréciés par Sa Hautesse et par ses Ministres, et je ne pense pas que les Cours Alliées exigent que Mustapha Pacha prêche nuit et jour aux populations de la Syrie les obligations que nous avons à l'Europe. Pour ce qui regarde le désarmement, c'est une mesure générale qui s'exécute à l'égard des Druses comme à l'égard des Maronites. Il ne s'agit pas d'ôter à ceux-ci les armes qui leur

ont été distribués en Syrie lors de la dernière guerre, et qui seraient désormais inutiles entre les mains des habitans. Quant enfin aux ruses et aux actes de violence auxquels les Druses auraient recours pour s'approprier peu à peu les terres des Maronites, je puis vous assurer que nous n'en avons pas la moindre connaissance."

J'ai dit à Sarim Effendi, que d'après les dernières dépêches que M. de Bourqueney avait reçues de sa Cour, celle-ci considérait comme indispensable la réhabilitation de la famille Chéhab dans le gouvernement du Mont Liban, et que les Cinq Puissances transmettraient probablement, sous peu, à leurs Représentans, des instructions précises et identiques à cet égard. J'ai répété à cette occasion à Monsieur le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères combien votre Excellence regrettait que la Porte n'ait pas depuis longtemps jugé à propos d'éloigner le sénéchal Omar Pacha, et de nommer à sa place l'Emir Emin, fils de l'ancien Emir Béchir. Sarim Effendi s'est borné à se référer aux argumens que la Porte a fait valoir jusqu'ici pour expliquer et justifier sa conduite à l'égard de la Syrie. Il a ajouté, que Selim Bey partirait pour cette province par le bateau à vapeur Autrichien du 15 de ce mois.

J'ai parlé aussi à Sarim Effendi des préférences que la Porte se plait à accorder aux Grecs schismatiques relativement au Saint Sépulchre. Il me répondit que la Porte traitait tous les rites Chrétiens d'une manière égale, et qu'il n'y avait rien de changé à cet égard. Il a ajouté, que M. le Baron de Bourqueney se proposait de lui présenter à ce sujet.

Sarim Effendi attribue aux Grecs les faux bruits d'après lesquels les Albanais enrôlés pour la Syrie se seraient débandés et se dirigeraient en partie sur la frontière de la Thénachie.

D'après ce que m'a dit Sarim Effendi, son entrevue avec M. Mavrocordat, la passerait prochainement le ~~gouvernement~~ ~~conférence~~, en tant qu'on n'y a abordé aucun point de la négociation. — On s'est borné de part et d'autre à des observations générales sur la situation et les intérêts des deux pays. Sarim Effendi s'est déclaré fort satisfait des manières et des dispositions personnelles du négociateur Grec.

(Signé) TESTA.

No. 66.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 77.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 11, 1842

THE day before yesterday, Monsieur de Titow called here, and read to me an instruction, or part of an instruction, dated the 22nd ultimo, and addressed to him by Count Nesselrode, in answer to his report of our proceedings relative to the affairs of Syria. I cannot better describe the character of this despatch than by saying that it is in perfect harmony with the line of conduct adopted by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires on the occasion to which I have referred. It is a subject of congratulation to the Emperor, that no collective step was taken, while at the same time His Imperial Majesty's regret is expressed that the Porte had neglected the advice given to her by Russia; that the Christians of Mount Lebanon had been deprived of their ancient privileges, and that the Turkish Empire was, in consequence, again exposed to the danger of an European intervention.

The despatch goes on to state, that the Court of St. Petersburg has received with satisfaction the assurance, that the recent change of government in Mount Lebanon is only temporary, and to intimate, that the Porte will do well to fulfil her promise, as soon as circumstances would admit of it.

As a copy of the despatch has, no doubt, been transmitted to Count Brunnow, in London, and by him communicated to your Lordship, I make no excuse for offering so imperfect an account of its contents.

Monsieur de Titow informed me that he had communicated to the Reis Effendi all that portion of it which was favourable to the views expressed in common, and that he had reserved those parts of it which at all indicated a shade of difference between his position and that of his colleagues.

The language of the Reis Effendi, with respect to the Russian communication, is, that he understood the Court of St. Petersburg to approve the step taken by its Representative, but not under the idea that the time was yet come for making a fresh change in the affairs of Mount Lebanon. His Excellency in conversing on this subject with M. Pisani added that the alterations introduced in the Porte since our arrival there were precisely to be carried into effect; and that Selim Bey was still to proceed upon his mission to the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

No. 67

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 78.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 13, 1842.

THIS morning, at an early hour, I received your Lordship's despatches from No. 21 to No. 32, both inclusive, and also your Lordship's circular, No. 1, respecting the Slave Trade, as well as two despatches addressed to me by Mr. A. G. in your Lordship's name, and dated respectively the 23rd and 24th of March.

According to the latest accounts from Syria, the affairs of that country remain nearly in the same state as before. The Porte continues to profess its satisfaction at the statements transmitted by Mustapha Pasha; and not having myself received any intelligence by the last steamer from Beyrout, I can only reply, that the information received by my colleagues is not in harmony with the impressions apparently derived from his despatches.

Selim Bey is still here, and it is still the intention of the Porte to send him to Syria for the purpose already stated to your Lordship.

To-morrow I am to have an interview with the Reis Effendi, at his Excellency's request; and I shall avail myself of the opportunity to execute those parts of your Lordship's instructions which require immediate attention.

The appointment which took place a few days ago, of Halil Pasha and of Fethi Ahmet Pasha to be ~~advisers~~ ~~advisors~~ of the Sultan, to places in the Council of Justice, has occasioned a very general expectation of some improvement in the policy of the present Turkish Administration. Most sincerely do I hope that such may prove to be the case; but I shall probably have it in my power to form a less erroneous conjecture upon the subject, after I shall have seen Sarim Effendi to-morrow.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

No. 68.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 82.)

Extract

Constantinople, April 20, 1842

ON the 17th instant, the Turkish commissioner, Selim Bey, at length embarked in a Government steamer, and proceeded to the coast of Syria. The Reis Effendi says that he expects him to return in less than a month.

On the 14th I waited upon that Minister, in consequence of his invitation, and I availed myself of the opportunity, to read to his Excellency those parts of your Lordship's despatches which advert to the late change

of Government in Syria, to the recall of Omar Pasha, and to the restitution of the ex-Emir Beshir El-Cassim's property.

I cannot affirm that, upon any one of these questions, I have met with decisive success. Upon the subject of the Shehab family, I am referred to the memorandum presented by the Porte some weeks ago to the Representatives of the Five Powers. The Government of Mount Lebanon may be restored to a member of that family, but it is a question of time and circumstances which cannot be decided till after the return of Selim Bey.

The removal of Omar Pasha is in like manner reserved for eventual consideration. The Porte attaches no importance to his continuance in office, but the Seraskier, who appointed him, is to decide upon his fate, or the question of his dismissal may be part of the final determination.

With respect to the lands of which the ex-Emir Beshir El-Cassim's wife has been forcibly deprived, I am assured by the Reis Effendi, that orders have been sent to include them in the legal inquiry respecting the Emir's own property, with a view to their ultimate restitution.

The distribution of the Albanian forces destined for Syria has again been the subject of some discussion between Sarim Effendi and myself. I understood him at one time to promise that they should be confined strictly to the fortresses on the coast, but he has since declared that, although they are to be quartered there in the first instance, they are to be placed at the Seraskier's disposal, and that he will employ them according to the exigencies of the service. Their arrival in Syria is expected with dread, but fortunately the difficulty of enlisting them, of finding transports, and of keeping them together, is so great, as to make it probable that few of the intended number will ever reach the coast of Syria. A detachment of them was driven a few days ago by stress of weather into Tenedos, and, the garrison being weak, the Governor of that island was compelled to tolerate their irregularities, and to compromise his authority for the sake of avoiding their violence.

No. 68.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 16.)

No. 93.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 27, 1842

ALTHOUGH, as your Lordship is aware, I have frequently urged the Porte either to abstain altogether from sending Albanian troops into Syria, or at least not to employ them in Mount Lebanon, I sent Mr. Alison this morning to communicate your Lordship's instruction No. 41, which reached me yesterday, to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs. Nearly the whole of the despatch was read to Sarim Effendi; but his Excellency was so delighted with the news of the seizure of the Druze Sheiks by Omar Pasha, without the assistance of any Albanians, that he was more inclined to boast of that feat, than to give any assurances of the nature desired by me, in addition to those which, on former occasions, I have wrung from him and reported in my correspondence with your Lordship.

According to accounts from Preveza and Salonica, I do not think that more than two thousand Albanians are already embarked, or indeed collected, for the service of Syria; and it is to be hoped, that the opinion and advice of Her Majesty's Government, so frequently urged, and founded on views of the Porte's own interests, will not remain entirely without effect.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 70.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 98.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 4, 1842.

BY a letter from Damascus, dated the 20th ultimo, I learn from Mr. Wood the following particulars:—

"According to advices from Alexandria of the 1st instant, four frigates were preparing for sea and on the point of sailing, and the general report is, that they are coming with troops to Syria."

"On the 18th instant, an Egyptian frigate and a corvette were about to anchor, as the post left, at Beyrout."

Mr. Wood also states that, according to his private information, the Egyptian troops are composed of four regiments under the command of Suleiman Pasha.

He adds that a Turk, invested with an important charge, had told him that he had heard some marching and drumming having been made to Mehemet Ali for four regiments and for Suleiman Pasha.

Monsieur de Bourqueney, with whom I had some conversation upon the subject, a few minutes ago, expressed the utmost surprise, and talked no small share of incredulity, upon the subject.

In closing his letter, Mr. Wood remarks, that the removal of Nejjib Pasha had "created a great sensation;" and, being attributed to my representations, "that it tended already to ameliorate greatly his position."

I have not yet ascertained how far the Reis Effendi is prepared to admit the truth of Mr. Wood's statement respecting the destination of Suleiman Pasha's 12,000 Egyptian troops to Syria, but I propose to communicate with him to-morrow upon the subject, and to inform your Lordship of the result by the French steam-packet, which goes to sea on the 7th instant.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

No. 71.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 27.)

No. 99.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 7, 1842

I AVAIL myself of the French steam-packet to forward to your Lordship the copy, inclosed herewith, of a memorial on the affairs of Mount Lebanon, presented to me, as well as to the Representatives of the Five Powers, by the Maronite Agents. Your Lordship will observe how little satisfaction this agent appears to derive from our exertions in favour of the interests which he represents; and I must not omit to mention, that, in the first instance, he did not send in his memorial to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires. This omission was noticed by Monsieur Titow, and even made the subject of some remarks by him to the French Minister, who, with great propriety, sent for Monsieur Nicholas Murad, and persuaded him to repair his error without loss of time.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Memorial from the Agent to the Patriarch of the Maronites to the Representatives of the Foreign Powers.

L'ÉTAT déplorable auquel se trouvent maintenant réduits les Chrétiens du Liban,—état qui ne pourrait se prolonger davantage sans achever leur ruine totale et irréparable, force le Soussigné à élever une fois encore en leur nom sa voix et à porter vers les magnanimes Représentans des Principales Puissances Chrétiennes, qui, mus par des motifs aussi légitimes que généreux, ont bien voulu déjà intervenir auprès de la Sublime Porte pour leur faire obtenir réparation des injustices dont ils ont été victimes.

Cette bienveillante intervention toutefois, quoique non moins juste que modérée, et si le cœur navré de douleur que le Soussigné a dû remarquer, n'a pas produit jusqu'à présent l'effet salutaire qu'on devait en attendre; au contraire, la conduite des autorités Ottomanes en Syrie est devenue de plus en plus hostile aux Chrétiens, et de nature à leur faire perdre désormais tout espoir de pouvoir obtenir d'elles aucune espèce de justice et de protection.

En effet, le Seraskir Mustapha Pacha, que l'on avait dit envoyé par la Porte pour protéger et faire indemniser les Chrétiens du Liban victimes de la plus perfide agression et des atroces brigandages des Druses, loin de s'occuper à rendre justice et à punir les auteurs de ces exécrationnelles forfaits, il prit à tâche, au contraire, d'ôter aux Chrétiens le seul moyen de protection qu'ils eussent, en les privant de leur unique protecteur, le Prince, et en mettant à sa place un Pacha Turc.

Après avoir accompli cette tâche d'iniquité, Mustapha Pacha ne songea plus que de parcourir la Syrie, en armant partout, et en fanatisant contre eux les Musulmans. Voilà la justice et la protection que les Chrétiens ont obtenu du Commissaire extraordinaire de la Porte.

Quant au Gouverneur Ottoman qui fut installé au Liban avec quelques troupes Turques et Albanaïes, il se contenta d'inviter les Chrétiens qui avaient dû se sauver auparavant des villages ravagés par les Druses, à y retourner sous sa protection; mais les malheureux qui se firent à une telle invitation, eurent à subir bientôt la plus cruelle des mystifications, car à leur retour, au lieu de trouver quelque protection pour pouvoir rentrer au moins en possession de leur propriétés territoriales, les seules que les Druses n'avaient pas pu emporter, ils durent éprouver la douleur de voir que ceux-ci s'en étant également emparés, menaçaient d'égorger ceux qui auraient osé réclamer, ne craignant pas même de mettre leur menace à exécution à Deir-el-Kamar sous les yeux du Gouverneur Turc, sans que celui-ci cependant ait cru devoir employer ses forces pour repousser un tel attentat. Ainsi les Chrétiens et les Turcs qui vivaient avec les Druses, habitaient jadis toute l'étendue des montagnes entre Saïde et Beyrouth, ne pouvant désormais y trouver la moindre sûreté sous la prétendue protection du Pacha Turc, durent chercher de nouveau un refuge dans le Kérouan et dans les autres pays montagneux au nord de Beyrouth, exclusivement habités par leurs co-religieux, où leurs ennemis n'avaient pas pu pénétrer.

Cependant, ces derniers pays, dont les ressources pour faire subsister sa nombreuse population sont dues au travail, à l'industrie, et au commerce de ses habitants dans les temps tranquilles, et sous un Gouvernement protecteur, ne sauraient certes supporter long-temps le surcroît de population qui a dû y refluer dernièrement, et d'autant moins que toute sûreté de commerce et trafic intérieur a disparu entièrement sous le présent système de Gouvernement dans ces contrées; au surplus, depuis quelque temps toutes les mesures des Autorités Turques tendent évidemment à isoler et à bloquer dans leurs montagnes les pauvres Chrétiens, où ils ne tarderont pas à être forcés ou de se résigner à périr de misère, ou à recourir aux armes contre leurs oppresseurs, et c'est dans la prévision de la seconde alternative que l'on prépare en même temps les moyens de les désarmer. Ainsi l'on ne saurait plus se faire illusion sur l'état horrible de leur situation actuelle par suite de ces mesures; tandis que d'un autre côté la con-

centration sur le littoral de la Syrie de nombreuses hordes d'Albanaïes les plus féroces, est bien de nature à augmenter encore leur tristes appréhensions, car ces hordes indisciplinées pourraient bien trouver l'occasion d'achever contre les Chrétiens Libanaïes l'œuvre d'extermination que les Druses n'ont que trop déjà avancé, et dans un pareil cas il ne serait guère à espérer que la Porte les défendit mieux contre les uns, qu'elle ne les a pu protéger contre les autres.

Avec une si horrible perspective devant les yeux, ces Chrétiens ne sauraient rester plus long-temps spectateurs impassibles de tout ce qui se prépare pour leur ruine finale, et s'ils purent endurer pendant plusieurs mois un état de choses presque intolérable sans s'insurger, ce ne fut que par déférence aux conseils des Représentans et des Agens des Puissances, qui leur firent espérer que la Porte ne tarderait pas à leur faire rendre justice, et à les rétablir dans leurs privilèges qui leur ont été garantis à une époque récente, et qui, au reste, sont indispensables à leur propre existence. Mais cet espoir venant à leur manquer, ils se trahirent eux-mêmes s'ils n'eussent pas recouru aux armes, tant qu'on n'est pas encore parvenu à les en dépouiller, comme ils sont menacés de l'être bientôt.

En vue des circonstances aussi graves et alarmantes pour ses malheureux compatriotes, le Soussigné ose conjurer humblement en leur nom, les Représentans des Puissances qui ne les ont pas cru indignes de leur protection, et de leur intercession auprès de la Sublime Porte les démarches ultérieures qu'ils croiront plus convenables, pour la mettre en demeure de faire rendre justice aux Chrétiens du Liban, la justice qui leur est due, en leur mençant par leur restituer un de leurs Princes pour les gouverner, seule mesure qui puisse leur offrir une garantie suffisante de protection, car ils ne sauraient désormais l'espérer directement des Autorités Turques, après l'avoir expérimenté, ils viennent de le faire. Comment pourraient-ils en effet se fier encore aux promesses de protection de ces autorités, lorsqu'ils n'ont jamais vu intervenir leurs forces qu'en faveur de leurs ennemis, comme dans l'affaire bien connue de Zahlé, et comme dernièrement encore à Hammona où les Druses étant venus y assaillir les Chrétiens, les troupes Turques ne parurent que lorsque leurs agresseurs avaient été repoussés pour protéger la retraite et les accompagner ainsi à repeter leurs actes d'agression. Le Soussigné, plein de confiance dans les sentimens de justice, d'humanité, et de religion qui animent les Représentans des Puissances Protecteurs des Chrétiens du Liban, attendra avec reconnaissance l'effet des démarches que leur intérêt bienveillant pour leur juste cause pourra leur inspirer, dans le but de les sauver d'une violente catastrophe qui peut être imminente, et, qu'au reste, ils subiront plutôt que de se soumettre à l'inique tyrannie dont ils ne pourraient qu'attendre un peu plus tard le même résultat. Et à cette occasion il se voit forcé à réclamer de toutes ses forces, au nom des principaux Chefs Chrétiens dont il tient en ses mains les protestations authentiques, manées de leurs seaux, contre les perfides mensonges et les déclarations apocryphes ou extorquées par la fraude ou la violence, au moyen desquelles les agens Turcs cherchent à surprendre la religion des Représentans des Puissances susmentionnées, pour leur faire croire que le Gouvernement du Pacha Turc n'a d'autre vœux des Chrétiens du Liban. Non, mille fois non, ces Chrétiens n'ont pas pu se laisser ainsi tromper, et ils ne peuvent pas se laisser ainsi leur ruine certaine. Bien plus, persuadés, comme ils ont le droit de l'être, que Sa Hautesse le Sultan ne saurait vouloir les priver des privilèges qui les font subsister, et qui d'ailleurs leur ont été confirmés en récompense des sacrifices qu'ils ont fait avec le plus grand dévouement pour le service de Sa Hautesse à une époque très récente, ils ont le besoin de la rappeler. Ils se croiront innocens de tout acte de rébellion contre lui, s'ils se voient forcés de combattre en leur propre défense ceux qui, abusant de la manière la plus indigne du pouvoir confié en leurs mains, voudront les soumettre à une injuste et insupportable oppression.

Dans l'espoir consolant que les Représentans sus-invoqués daigneront prendre en bienveillante considération ce que le Soussigné a cru son imprétable devoir de leur exposer humblement, au nom des infortunés Chrétiens du Liban, dont il est ici le mandataire, il s'empresse de leur

offrir de leur part l'hommage de leur éternelle reconnaissance pour la généreuse protection dont ils attendent leur salut, et à l'honneur d'être lui-même avec la plus haute et respectueuse considération, &c.

(Signé) NICOLAS MURAD.

No. 72.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 6)

(No. 107)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 18, 1842.

THE latest advices from Syria, combined with the language of the Turkish Ministers, are not favourable to the hope of an early or satisfactory settlement of the affairs of Mount Lebanon.

No fresh disturbances had taken place in the country, but, on the other hand, no real progress had been made towards the restitution of the plundered property, or the restoration of the deposed family.

Selim Bey is described as being in dependence upon the Seraskier, and the latter as devoting his utmost efforts, not without success, to the corruption or intimidation of the Christian Chiefs.

The principal result of his labour is a petition, numerous signed, in favour of Omar Pasha; and since the receipt of this petition here, and of the despatches which, no doubt, accompanied it, the Porte has given indications of an intention to persevere in the Grand Visier's policy respecting Syria.

It appears that some of the Christian Emirs have been induced to promise that they will even come up to Constantinople, if called upon to do so, and give evidence of the sincerity with which they have signed the above-mentioned petition. Colonel Rose informs me that promises and bribes have been freely employed to produce this demonstration in favour of the Porte.

On the other hand, the people of the mountain—thus partly abandoned by their leaders—have come forward to make a counter-declaration, which has also been transmitted to the capital, and of this paper I have now the honour to inclose a copy for your Lordship's information.

In reference to these circumstances, I had some conversation with my colleagues yesterday, and I was anxious to ascertain their sentiments with regard to the expediency of inviting the Porte either to hasten the return of Selim Bey, or to afford such further explanation as might lead to an early settlement of the Syrian affair. An understanding upon this subject would seem to be the more desirable, as the Internuncio is going, in a few days, on account of his health, to the baths of Brussa, and his absence may extend to a period of six weeks.

This morning, however, the Reis Effendi has himself thrown some light upon the question. He informed Mr Alison of his intention to invite myself and the other Representatives to a meeting at his house on the 20th instant, by which time an officer sent up to Constantinople by the Seraskier, will be out of quarantine, for the purpose of conferring upon the affairs of Syria, and communicating thereupon with Selim Bey, previous to the return of the latter from Beyrout, which, he said, was to take place as soon as the Porte's instructions should reach him.

The proposed conference will, no doubt, enable me to judge more clearly than I can pretend to do at present, of the real intentions entertained by the Porte, and the departure of the monthly messenger will afford me an early and convenient opportunity of reporting the result to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 72.

Translation of a Petition in Arabic, addressed by the Christian inhabitants of the Lebanon to His Highness the Sultan.

WE, Christians of the Lebanon, subjects of your Highness, prostrated at the feet of your throne have the honour to represent, that our submission and obedience to your Imperial orders are well known to your Imperial Court. That our fidelity to your Highness cannot be called in question, for we fought with those who revolted against your legitimate crown, and have shed our blood to defend your rights, as we are ready to do evermore, and till our last breath. We have respected your supreme authority and tolerated, till now, the Druses, our enemies, and, instead of having recourse to force, for revenging the plunder, conflagrations, and great damages occasioned by that body, we have had recourse to the equity and justice of your Highness.

Your Highness, according to your promises, has ordered the different Pashas to give us help on this occasion, and to restore us to tranquillity. We infinitely thank your sovereign clemency, and we venture, through our Deputy to make known to your Highness the pitiful state to which we are at present reduced. Scattered far from our habitations, we have not the least security nor tranquillity; and all that has been seized and plundered by the Druses has not, as yet, been restored to us. Mustapha Pasha and Omar Pasha, not only do not provide for the urgency of our situation, but rather abuse the power that has been conferred on them.

As soon as Omar Pasha was appointed Governor of the Lebanon, far from communicating to the Porte our petition, by which we implored your Highness that one of our Princes Shehabis should be appointed to the government of the Lebanon, he constrained our Chiefs, by terror, menaces, and force, to sign another petition, which he caused to be written according to his wishes, and in their names, in which it was declared that the election made in his person was of the general acceptance and satisfaction.

Unconscious, most glorious Sultan, of your benignity and humanity, the Princes and Chiefs of the Lebanon have represented by a petition, contrary to that transmitted by Omar Pasha to the Sublime Porte, that the first was written against their will, and that the ~~opposite~~ wish was that the Lebanon should be governed by a Shehabian Prince.

Mustapha Pasha, on his part, after his return from Jerusalem to Beyrout, assembled some of the Chiefs of the Lebanon, and though he ordered Omar Pasha to arrest and send to Beyrout five of the Drusian Chiefs, which Omar Pasha did, in order to deceive the hopes of the population of the Lebanon; and to prevent that as little credit as possible might be given to their last petition, he wrote one according to his own views, in the name of our Chiefs and the Druses in the following terms: That both of them, submissive and obedient to the Sublime Porte, requested the exclusion from the Government of the Lebanon of the family of the Shehabis, and that, satisfied with the government of Omar Pasha, they desired that the same should be confirmed in this post; that anything alleged against this declaration to the Representatives of the Allied Powers, or to others, is false; and that the petition was signed, not by force, but voluntarily.

Thus are we oppressed; our Chiefs were obliged by force and violence to sign petitions in favour of such Pashas, and against their will; and these deliberations are brought to the notice of your Highness, instead of the real and voluntary ones.

In this state of things, we servants and subjects of your Highness, of one accord, and with unanimous consent, men and women, old and young, high and low, by the means of our Deputy, supplicate, O Emperor, that you should be pleased to turn your merciful eyes upon us, and to deliver us from this oppression. Restore us to peace and tranquillity; do not abandon us in the utmost of our wants and calamity; be so gracious as

to elect to the principality of the Lebanon the Emir Emin Shehab, who is now in your capital. We will be quiet and happy under this Governor. He is faithful to your Highness, and endowed with prudence and wisdom in governing; his character is free from stain. He is impartial, known to all, and generous with the poor. He has acquired the love and good-will of everybody; all the population incline to him. Chosen by his father to administer justice in the Lebanon, he has been, on account of his good qualities, praised by every one. No one ever said the least thing against his proceeding. He is, above all, capable to satisfy the Sublime Porte and the common wishes. If your Highness do not turn your eyes on us, and is not touched by our prayers, we shall be entirely ruined. Be moved for the sake of so many persons, and by the devotion and submissive conduct of the Lebanese. Raise, magnanimous Sovereign, that voice of mercy and clemency, in order that we should be happy under your empire. We shall pray God for your preservation, and for the prosperity of your State.

(Signed in the original, by forty persons of the Deputies from the population of all the provinces of the Lebanon.)

16 Rebi-ul-esul, 1258 (April 27, 1842).

No. 73.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 108.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 19, 1842.

I HAVE received of the Vienna post to inform your Lordship that, after I have sent off my despatches by the latest yesterday the latest messenger, I have received the substance of what had passed a conversation between his Excellency and the Grand Vicer upon the subject of Syria. An interview, at which Sarim Effendi was present, had taken place between them in the course of the morning. The occasion was a visit of leave, on Baron de Stürmer's part, upon his departure for the baths of Brussa, whither, I am sorry to say, the feeble state of his health obliges him to repair for several weeks.

He told me, that he had found the Vizier determined on maintaining a Turkish Pasha in Mount Lebanon, grounding his determination upon the desire of the principal inhabitants themselves, as expressed in the petitions sent up to the Porte by Mustapha Pasha, and on the impossibility of preserving the peace of the country, if the Shehab family were restored to power.

The Internuncio told me also, that on being solicited to postpone his departure till after a conference, to which it was the intention of the Reis Effendi to invite the Representatives of the Five Powers, he had requested to be excused, if his presence were only wanted for a communication so entirely at variance with the sentiments and expectations of the European Powers, and which would necessarily have the effect of placing the Turkish Government in a position which no friend of theirs could wish to see them occupy.

It would appear that, although the conversation had been prolonged for nearly three hours, and naturally gave occasion for the employment of numerous arguments on each side, the substance of all that was really important in it is comprised in what I have stated above.

It would also appear that Sarim Effendi betrayed some indications of dissent from the Vizier's opinion; and, upon this point, I may add that, in a previous conversation with Mr. Alison, his Excellency did not conceal the impressions which he entertained of the unfortunate direction given of late to the policy of the country, and his regret that men of enlightened opinions had not been able to act in concert.

The present opportunity does not admit of my going further into a

subject which requires time for its more complete explanation; but I hope to resume it in a more satisfactory manner in the despatches which I shall have to prepare for the next messenger.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 74.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 12.)

(No. 117.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 24, 1842.

THE conference, to which Sarim Effendi announced his intention of inviting the Representatives of the Five Powers with respect to the affairs of Syria, has not yet taken place. His Excellency informed Mr. Alison yesterday that he intended to propose it for the 27th instant. His intention, I believe, is to communicate to us the petitions and reports sent up from Syria by Mustapha Pasha, and to ascertain the impression which they make upon our minds. Another reference to Syria, and, consequently, a fresh period of delay, is to precede the return of Selim Bey, and a definitive settlement of the affairs of Mount Lebanon.

Deeply as I regret this continued procrastination, it is hardly possible for me to dwell further upon the charge of pressing disrespectfully upon the Porte, and I do not perceive any disposition in my colleagues to complain of her dilatory mode of proceeding.

The Internuncio is at Brussa. The Prussian Minister has orders from his Court to limit his participation in the Syrian affair to the support of the majority; and M. Titow, though certainly instructed to advise the removal of Omar Pasha in favour of a member of the Shehab family, is not likely to take an active part in stimulating the progress of the Porte. Even the French Minister has not expressed to me any impatience of the present delay.

The Greek negotiation is affected by the prospect of our conference concerning Syria. No further step has taken place between the parties, and although an interview with the Reis Effendi may afford a natural opportunity of making inquiry upon the subject, there might be inconvenience in pressing for more while that is pending.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 75.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 122.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, June 9, 1842.

THE want of a suitable conveyance, the incomplete nature of my communications with the Porte, and the pressure of daily business, have occasioned a certain degree of interruption in my correspondence with your Lordship. Circumstances related elsewhere induce me to remove all further delay, by sending the "Stromboli" to Malta with the despatches which I hope to prepare in the course of the day.

Nearly a fortnight has now elapsed since the conference took place, which I had previously announced to your Lordship. It was held at Sarim Effendi's house on the Bosphorus, in pursuance of his Excellency's invitation. The Cyprian Pasha and the President of the Council were present in company with the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Ministers of the Five Powers were attended by their respective Dragomans, and I

lament to add, that a severe attack of fever deprived me of the valuable services of Mr. Alison.

For an account of what passed at the conference, I beg leave to refer your Lordship to the accompanying report, which was drawn up from memory by the interpreters, and revised, with a view to more complete correctness, by my colleagues and myself. It will be found to contain the principal statements and arguments produced on each side, and the result was such as would naturally follow from a conflict between adverse impressions and irreconcilable testimony. The question at issue remains where it was, the Shohab family is as remote as ever from the Government of Mount Lebanon; and the only assurance given by the Turkish Ministers was, that no conclusive decision should be taken before the return of Selim Bey, or without a fresh reference to the Representatives of the Five Powers.

Copies of the papers presented to us by Sarim Effendi in the opening of the conference are herewith renewed, and I further submit to your Lordship the report derived from Colonel Rose, which I read out for the information of the Turkish Ministers, in the course of the discussion that ensued.

When the affairs of Syria had been disposed of, we availed ourselves of the opportunity to exhibit a collective interest in the advancement of the Greek commercial negotiation, by requesting to be made acquainted with the state in which it then was, and reminding the Turkish Ministers of the grounds on which we were entitled to express that interest. We were informed by Sarim Effendi, in reply, that the explanatory note given in by Monsieur Mavrocordato, was before the Council, and the terms employed by his Excellency were such as to imply that he considered the Porte as being still at liberty to reject the proffered negotiation, although there might be no reluctance to do so without reference to the nature and merit of the propositions submitted by the Greek Envoy.

It would, therefore, appear from what passed at our conference, that of the two European affairs which have principally occupied us for some time, one is altogether at a stand, and the other all but suspended.

With respect, however, to the latter of those two questions, the language of Sarim Effendi has been rather more encouraging than the last few days. He has sent me word by Mr. Alison that the treaty would be ultimately arranged in concert with me; and it appears that copies of the Greek Envoy's note, translated into Turkish, have been distributed among the members of the Council.

It remains for me to state that, on inviting my colleagues to examine the report of our conference with the Turkish Ministers, I suggested the expediency of either communicating that paper to the Reis Effendi, or adopting some other mode if that were deemed in any way exceptional, of giving to our counter-statements, and the petitions sent up from Beyrout for the restoration of the Shohab family, the full degree of weight to which they were entitled, without overstepping the limits of our friendly and confidential position towards the Porte. To facilitate the adoption of one more joint exertion, thus temperate & characterized in order to attain the object of our expectations, I expressed my readiness to abridge the substance of a statement form of proposed terms by colleagues being only anxious to report all the facts in our power, as far as we possessed, under the advantage of that collective meeting to which the Porte had herself invited us, and which seemed to impose upon us the duty of returning a more impressive and deliberate opinion than we could offer at the moment, not having been previously apprized of what the Porte intended to communicate, to require, or to resolve.

In the desultory discussion which ensued, the French Minister assumed a more eager and vehement tone than any of our colleagues. He addressed himself particularly to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, and not only urged with warmth the adoption of some additional step, but left no doubt as to his intention of supporting and even promoting zealously the counter-petitions which were to be expected from Syria. Monsieur de Titow, on the other hand, declared, in reply to a question from me, that

he was not at liberty to join in any further proceeding except on the invitation of the Porte, not even in the communication, though qualified as confidential, of our joint report, and that the Russian Consul at Beyrout, even had he been there at the time, would not have taken part with his colleagues in their joint interview with Masapha Pasha. The Prussian Chargé d'Affaires, on hearing this declaration, sided with Monsieur de Titow, and stated, agreeably to what he had told me before, that his instructions did not admit of his being a party to any transaction respecting Syria from which any one of the Five Representatives dis-sented.

Your Lordship will not be surprized, if, under these circumstances, I resigned myself to the conviction that nothing further was to be expected for the present, unless it were the result of any impression already produced upon the Porte. The language of Sarim Effendi, and what had transpired of the Vicer's sentiments were little calculated to inspire me with confidence in that respect. I venture, nevertheless, to hope that the obstinate attachment of the Turkish Ministry to their own views, may be eventually counteracted, by means of greater efficiency than those which it has hitherto been found practicable to employ.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure I in No. 75

Substance of a Conference held at the house of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, May 27, 1842.

A UNE heure et demie, Arif Pacha, Président du Conseil de Justice, et Tahir Pacha, Grand Amiral, se trouvaient réunis chez le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et, de concert avec lui, ils ont pris part à la conférence à laquelle assistaient aussi l'Ametchi Effendi et le premier interprète du Divan. Étaient présents d'autre part, son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, le Ministre de France, le Chargé d'Affaires de Russie, le Chargé d'Affaires de Prusse, et le Chargé d'Affaires d'Autriche.

Sarim Effendi a exposé la question en disant, que des troubles étant survenus dans les montagnes du Liban, la Porte avait jugé à propos d'y envoyer, il y a environ six mois, le Seraskir Mountapha Pacha, pour s'enquérir de l'état des choses, et prendre les mesures nécessaires en conséquence; que le Seraskir avait alors démis de ses fonctions et envoyé à Constantinople l'Emir Béchir-el-Cassim, et investi Omar Pacha du Gouvernement de la Montagne; que les Représentans des Cinq Puissances s'étaient prononcés contre l'opportunité de cette mesure, et, en demandant qu'elle fut considérée seulement comme provisoire, avaient insisté sur le maintien des anciennes institutions, et conseillé à la Porte la réintégration de la famille de Chéhab; que la Porte, par suite de ces démarches, avait annoncé à ces Représentans, qu'elle enverrait un commissaire *ad hoc* en Syrie chargé de prendre les informations nécessaires sur l'état des choses, et qu'après le retour de ce commissaire, elle se prononcerait sur le système à établir; que Selim Bey s'étant acquitté de cette tâche, et qu'il avait adressé à la Porte un rapport sur le résultat de sa mission, accompagné de quatre requêtes signées par des Cheiks Maronites et d'autres notables du Mont Liban, Sarim Effendi a fait alors donner lecture de la traduction de ces pièces, et a ajouté, qu'il avait réuni MM. les Représentans pour prendre leur avis et pour conférer avec eux sur leur contenu. Traduction de ces pièces a été remise à MM. les Représentans.

Après quelques discussions sur l'objet précis de la communication qui venait d'avoir lieu, et après avoir reçu de Sarim Effendi l'aveu que, tout en désirant connaître l'effet qu'elle produirait sur l'esprit des Représentans, la Porte ne pensait pas à prendre une détermination immédiate sans leur participation, l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre a pris la parole pour dire que les rapports qui lui avaient été adressés de la Syrie n'étaient nullement en harmonie avec ceux de l'autorité Ottomane. Il a ajouté

que ces rapports caractérisaient les pétitions transmises par Mustapha Pacha comme ayant été obtenues par les menaces et les promesses, et qu'il avait lieu de croire que des informations analogues avaient été adressées à ses Collègues par les Consuls de leurs nations. Les quatre autres Représentans se sont empressés de confirmer l'assertion de l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre.

D'après le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, les pièces lues à la conférence établissent complètement la vérité des rapports du Seraskir Pacha, leur conformité avec les faits, et la convenance qu'il y a, dans l'intérêt de la tranquillité et du bonheur des populations (objet commun des efforts de la Porte et des Puissances), à maintenir le nouveau mode d'administration du Liban sous un Pacha Turc. Selon lui, les populations sont unanimes pour repousser la famille Chéhab, et son retour serait le signal de désordre. La Porte, dit-il, a été obligée d'interposer son autorité pour empêcher grand nombre d'habitans du Liban de venir à Constantinople intenter un procès au vieux Emir Béchir pour des violences et des exactions dont ils ont été les victimes. Il fait remarquer que les pétitions lues aux Représentans sont signées par des personnes qui se font connaître, tandis que les rapports des Consuls sont fondés uniquement sur le témoignage de malveillance et de gens sans aveu, qui vont d'un Consul chez l'autre, raconter les mêmes fables.

Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères a lu le nouveau projet de Ministère des Affaires Etrangères par les Représentans des Cinq Puissances. On a égaré l'attention en observant aux Ministres Turcs que les requêtes par eux communiquées ne portaient la signature que d'un petit nombre de personnes, qui n'étant ni Porte de pas, ne pouvaient recueillir ces signatures. On avait employé les promesses de l'intercession qu'il existait des pétitions demandant le retour de la famille Chéhab signées par les mêmes personnes dont les cachets figuraient au bas des présentes requêtes. On a dit d'une lecture de cette pièce on s'est corrigé les lettres les plus résistances par ces communications pour contraindre ou engager quelques Chefs du Liban à signer leurs signatures. On a fait remarquer au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères qu'il était difficile de s'expliquer comment sans de pareilles manœuvres les habitans du Liban auraient pu si facilement changer l'opinion, et changer des usages anciens et des privilèges aux quels ils tenaient si fort et dont depuis peu et à diverses reprises, ils ont si souvent demandé et si énergiquement demandé la conservation.

Les Ministres Turcs ont expliqué ce changement par la diminution des impôts de 10000 livres au lieu de 20000 à quoi il a été répondu que cette diminution de charges n'était pas une chose nouvelle se rattachant à la nomination d'Omar Pacha, mais qu'elle remontait au règlement de la question Egyptienne du temps de l'administration de l'Emir Et-Kassim, que d'ailleurs il n'était pas dit que si la famille Chéhab était rétablie le tribut doit être augmenté, puisque l'augmentation ou la diminution de ce tribut dépendait uniquement de la Porte.

On a rappelé les promesses faites aux populations de la Montagne, de concert avec le Gouvernement Ottoman, lorsqu'on avait besoin de leurs services; et après qu'on en avait tiré parti, ces promesses ont été niées on ce sens que, selon le Ministre Ottoman, elles n'auraient été que des promesses générales de bienveillance et de protection, qu'il était prêt à renouveler, ou des promesses particulières et conditionnelles à l'égard du vieux Emir Béchir, dont celui-ci ne peut réclamer l'accomplissement, faute par lui d'avoir rempli les conditions demandées.

Les cinq Représentans ont été unanimes pour déclarer l'insuffisance des témoignages produits par la Sublime Porte. On a rappelé que les Consuls de France, d'Autriche, et de la Grande Bretagne, à Beyrouth, n'ont pas hésité à critiquer Mustapha Pacha de se réunir chez lui pour discuter contradictoirement les renseignemens transmis par eux aux Représentans des Puissances à Constantinople, et les rapports adressés par lui au Gouvernement Ottoman, que cette démarche des Consuls était une preuve de la confiance que l'on doit avoir dans leurs assertions.

On a fait observer de plus aux Ministres Turcs, que la paix et la tranquillité dont ils se prévalaient comme argument en faveur du nouveau mode d'administration, reposaient seulement sur des promesses

de la part du Gouvernement Ottoman dont l'effet ne serait que temporaire, que la principale cause de cette tranquillité était la confiance des populations dans l'heureux résultat des efforts des Puissances amies pour leur faire rendre un ordre de choses qui leur est cher, et dont le rétablissement seul peut fonder une tranquillité durable. On a ajouté, qu'en mettant de côté les mouvemens locaux de la déchéance de la famille Chéhab, il y avait dans cette perturbation violente apportée à un régime ancien quelque chose de dangereux, et un mauvais exemple pour les autres populations de l'Empire Ottoman; que les Puissances amies ont dernièrement encore manifesté dans un acte solennel, l'intérêt unanime qu'elles portent au principe de l'intégrité de l'Empire Ottoman, et qu'elles avaient à cœur que la Porte ne fit rien qui put entraîner des conséquences contraires à ce principe.

Monsieur le Chargé d'Affaires d'Autriche a lu le résumé d'une dépêche de son Altesse le Prince de Metternich, en date du 17 Mai courant, qu'il venait de recevoir immédiatement avant la conférence, renfermant des considérations élevées pour montrer la nécessité du retour à l'ancien ordre de choses en Syrie.

Les Ministres Turcs, en répétant que selon eux il n'existait pas l'ombre d'un doute sur la disposition des populations à demander le retour de la famille Chéhab, c'était demander l'impossible, car ces populations ne veulent pas le retour de la famille Chéhab.

Dans le cas où la vérité des rapports produits par eux serait reconnue par vos Excellences, il n'y a rien de plus à dire sur la relation de l'Etat.

Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères a répondu que cette vérité était reconnue et qu'il ne paraissait pas opportun de discuter ces assertions une question n'ayant sur elle que des faits et des preuves par l'état actuel de leurs informations.

Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères a proposé alors d'envoyer d'ici dans le Liban, des commissaires accompagnés de délégués des Ambassades avec des listes pour recueillir les suffrages, et constater la majorité.

Un moyen semblable, lui a-t-on répondu, ne pourrait être conforme aux vœux des Puissances amies, que s'il était combiné avec les égards dus à la dignité du Gouvernement Ottoman, ces Puissances désirant avant tout que dans l'arrangement de la présente question le Sultan agisse toujours spontanément, et figure dans tout l'éclat de son autorité souveraine.

Plusieurs considérations appuyées d'exemples tirés de l'histoire, ont été présentées pour montrer la nécessité des ménagemens et de la prudence à l'égard des populations montagnardes et pour rappeler les égards que les Sultans les plus puissans ont eu pour celles du Mont Liban.

On a prié les Ministres Ottomans de ne point exagérer l'importance et l'étendue des modifications conseillées par les Puissances dans la nouvelle forme du Gouvernement de la Montagne. Le Prince de la famille Chéhab qui sera nommé, ne devant en tout cas, exercer le pouvoir, que comme délégué et serviteur de Sa Hautesse, le Seraskir Pacha a été représenté par les Ministres des Cinq Puissances amies, comme juge et partie dans la cause, et Selim Bey comme n'ayant pas à Beyrouth cette position d'indépendance et d'autorité que devait avoir un commissaire chargé de mettre d'accord ses assertions contradictoires, et comme n'ayant pas rempli les conditions nécessaires pour donner crédit complet à ses rapports.

Trois faits ont été cités à l'appui de cette opinion. 1. Selim Bey n'a point été admis à la réunion des Consuls chez Mustapha Pacha, quoique les Consuls l'eussent demandé.

2. Selim n'est point sorti de Beyrouth et n'a point pénétré dans la Montagne.

3. Selim Bey a refusé de recevoir, sans le consentement préalable de Mustapha Pacha, les pétitions qui lui ont été présentées en faveur du retour de la famille Chéhab.

Il a été répondu par les Ministres Turcs, que Selim Bey n'était point allé dans la Montagne parce que les Maronites s'étaient rendus en masse auprès de lui, et que c'est parce qu'il n'a point encore accompli sa mission, qu'il n'est pas revenu par le dernier paquebot.

Il serait inutile de reproduire en détail le long échange d'objections et de réponses qui s'est toujours manifesté, d'un côté, la croyance absolue aux rapports du Seraskir et de Selim Bey, et de l'autre, une défiance correspondante.

Pour arriver à un résultat les Représentans des Cinq Cours ont fait au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères la question suivante :—

“ Repousseriez-vous toujours la réhabilitation de la famille Chéhab, dans le cas où, de concert avec la Sublime Porte, on trouverait une combinaison qui prévendrait les dangers que la Sublime Porte redoute ? ”

Cette question, à laquelle le Ministre Turc a refusé de répondre tant qu'on n'aurait pas répondu à celle qu'il avait faite précédemment, a été suivie de la part de MM. les Représentans d'une série de considérations propres à montrer à la Sublime Porte que ses craintes, en admettant même qu'elles fussent fondées, ne pourraient s'appliquer qu'à des circonstances particulières et passagères, et qu'on ne pouvait satisfaire au vœu des Puissances sans négliger les moyens suggérés par ces mêmes circonstances.

Les Ministres Turcs ont persisté à soutenir que la seule réapparition des Chéhab deviendrait le signal d'un soulèvement, non seulement dans la montagne, mais aussi dans les autres territoires habités par les Druses; et que la compression de ces désordres nécessiterait de grandes dépenses, l'envoi d'une force militaire considérable, et l'emploi des moyens de rigueur repoussés par l'humanité et par le vœu des Puissances.

En dehors des moyens coercitifs, n'y aurait-il pas, a-t-on demandé, quelques mesures non stratégiques dans le sens déjà dit, qui pourraient prévenir les dangers signalés par la Porte, et satisfaire tous les partis ?

Les Ministres Turcs ayant paru désirer quelques développemens, on leur a demandé si la Sublime Porte serait contraire à une combinaison par laquelle les Druses et les Maronites seraient placés sous deux chefs séparés pris dans chaque nation respective ?

Les Ministres Turcs ont répondu que cette mesure était d'une réalisation impossible, parce que les Druses et les Maronites habitent confondus dans les mêmes villages.

On leur a fait observer que ce mélange n'existait que dans deux ou trois localités, mais que la majeure partie des Druses et des Maronites habitaient des districts séparés.

Les Représentans des Cinq Puissances ont exposé aux Ministres Turcs, que lors même que le système nouvellement établi serait maintenu, il y aurait toujours, à l'égard des pièces mêmes produites, une part de la population qui lui serait contraire; que dans le cas de la réhabilitation de la famille Chéhab, s'il y avait opposition, la Sublime Porte, outre le parti favorable aux Chéhab, pourrait compter toujours sur l'appui moral de ses alliés, dans le cas contraire, elle en serait privée; et il ne faut pas qu'elle oublie que, partout et toujours, des populations de mœurs et de religion différentes ont de la propension à tourner leurs regards vers les appuis du dehors, il est donc très important pour le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse d'avoir cet appui de son côté.

Les Ministres ayant parlé des dépenses que la Porte devrait faire pour maintenir un Prince de la famille Chéhab, des troupes qu'elle devait envoyer du sang qui serait versé, on leur a répondu qu'on ne pouvait pas à l'instant la réalité des événemens et des dangers qu'ils verraient de signaler, et qu'il ne s'agissait pas d'une guerre que la Porte aurait à soutenir contre les opposans, puisque d'après les adresses mêmes lues à la conférence, la réhabilitation des Chéhab ne serait suivie que de l'émigration du parti contraire, mais nullement d'une levée de boucliers. Les Ministres Turcs ont fait observer, que c'était uniquement par respect des convenances que les signatures des adresses n'avaient point articulé le mot de résistance armée, mais que la Sublime Porte savait positivement par d'autres sources, que ces signataires et leurs adhérens étaient prêts à prendre les armes à la première nouvelle.

L'heure avancée, et la stérilité des efforts faits de part et d'autre pour arriver à un résultat, ont déterminé MM. les Représentans à déclarer que leur conviction de la vérité et de l'exactitude des rapports de leurs Consuls,

n'était pas détruite par les assertions contraires des Ministres de la Porte et les pièces produites par eux, et que pour être fidèles au système de franchise suivi dans leurs rapports avec la Sublime Porte, ils devaient la prévenir qu'ils ne pouvaient se dispenser de faire connaître leurs impressions à leurs Cours.

Les Ministres Turcs ont déclaré que rien aussi de leur côté n'avait été changé à leurs convictions.

Sarim Effendi a prié alors MM. les Représentans de ne point écrire à leurs Cabinets sous l'influence des impressions produites par la conférence du jour, mais de la faire seulement après une mûre réflexion; de ne pas se borner à lire que la Porte persiste dans ce bien faire, ressortir qu'elle prend en considération sa position, les temps, les lieux, et les circonstances.

Ensuite MM. les Représentans ont engagé la Porte, au nom de l'intérêt que leur Cours prennent au bien-être de l'Empire Ottoman, d'arranger l'affaire du Liban d'une manière satisfaisante, afin de faire cesser une divergence regrettable entre eux et les Grandes Puissances ses amies.

Les Ministres Turcs ayant répondu que la tranquillité la plus parfaite régnait en Syrie, et que, par conséquent, ils ne voyaient pas la nécessité urgente d'aviser à aucune mesure nouvelle, on leur a fait observer qu'il y avait urgence puisqu'il y avait complication de rapports de la Porte avec les Grandes Cours de l'Europe.

Les Ministres Turcs ont exprimé l'espoir que quant à ces rapports, la présente question n'y porterait aucune atteinte, à quoi MM. les Représentans ont répondu qu'ils se plaisaient à l'espérer.

Avant de se séparer, on a convenu, qu'une décision ne serait prise en conséquence de cette conférence, qu'il n'en serait point pris sans communication préalable; et qu'il fallait attendre le retour de Selim Bey, et les informations ultérieures qui pourraient arriver à la Porte et à MM. les Représentans.

Inclure 2 in No. 75.

Petition addressed to the Sublime Porte by the Inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, and signed by twenty-four Shouas.

(Traduction.)

LES vexations que les descendans de la famille Chéhab ont constamment prié à tâche d'exercer sur les notables et les autres habitans du Liban, en sont arrivés en dernier lieu à un tel point, qu'à l'exception des gens attachés à leur service, tout le reste du peuple s'est vu réduit à l'extrême. Ayant été ce avec beaucoup d'impressionnement qu'à la nouvelle de l'arrivée à Beyrouth de son Altesse le Seraskir Pacha, nous nous sommes rendus auprès de ce haut dignitaire, pour déposer à ses pieds l'hommage de notre profond respect, ainsi qu'il était de notre devoir de le faire.

En nous acquittant de ce devoir, nous avons soumis à son Altesse la prière de nous délivrer des mains de la famille Chéhab et de faire choix d'un des fidèles sujets de l'Empire, pour nous placer sous son autorité, en même temps que nous avons supplié ce haut personnage de nous faire obtenir la grâce qu'aucun des descendans de la famille Chéhab, ni des notables Druses ou Chrétiens qui habitent la Montagne, ne peut dorénavant être appelé à nous gouverner. Notre prière fût accueillie par son Altesse le Seraskir Pacha, qui fit honneur par sa bonté et sa clemence, de son Excellence Omar Pacha, homme probe et loyal, et un des fidèles serviteurs de la Sublime Porte.

Délivrés par la nomination de ce fonctionnaire au Gouvernement de la Montagne, des mains de la famille Chéhab, nous en avons rendu des actions de grâces au Très-Haut, en appelant à plusieurs reprises la bénédiction du ciel sur la conservation et la durée du règne du Sultan notre Auguste Souverain.

Grâces à Dieu et à la nomination de son Excellence Omar Pacha, la haine et l'animosité qui régnaient entre nous, ont complètement disparu;

chacun de nous a repris son ancienne position, et chaque individu s'est remis à l'exercice de l'état qui lui était transmis par son père et ses ancêtres. La confiance et la tranquillité ont commencé à renaître parmi la population, et l'éloignement des Emirs Chéhab n'a point tardé à produire l'effet qu'on était en droit de s'en attendre.

Sur ces entrefaites, quelques uns des Emirs Chéhab, les plus fameux par leur turbulence, profitant du départ de son Altesse le Seraskir Pacha pour Devar, district dépendant de la Syrie, se sont entendus avec leurs créatures et les sujets des Puissances étrangères, pour faire répandre le bruit que la nomination de son Excellence Omar Pacha au Gouvernement de la Montagne, aurait eu lieu contre le gré de la population, et sans son consentement, et que le retour au pouvoir de la famille Chéhab aurait été désiré par les habitants de la Montagne.

Ce bruit que ces individus ont fait courir, comme venant de la part des notables et de la population du Liban, n'a pas manqué de parvenir, à son retour à Beyrouth, à la connaissance de son Altesse le Seraskir Pacha.

Dans cet état de choses il ne nous reste qu'à implorer de la clémence Impériale, la grâce de ne point prêter foi ni oreille à de pareils bruits émanés des sources si perfides.

Nous sommes tous sujets et serviteurs de la Sublime Porte; loin de vouloir consentir à être gouvernés par la famille Chéhab, ni par aucun autre individu, soit Druse ou Chrétien, nous adressons au contraire à l'Empire Ottoman, notre bienfaiteur, la très-humble prière de nous donner pour Chef un de ses fidèles serviteurs.

Nous sommes tous décidément résolus, dans le cas où les paroles perfides des gens d'une si mauvaise foi venant à prévaloir sur notre demande, on s'arrêterait au parti de nous donner pour Gouverneur un des membres de la famille Chéhab, ou quel autre des habitants de la Montagne, de nous disperser dans les différentes parties de l'Empire Ottoman, afin de nous mettre à l'abri de leurs atteintes.

Nous sommes tous prêts, s'il est besoin de le faire, à nous rendre à Constantinople, pour y déclarer verbalement, ou par écrit, que cette demande de notre part, est aussi l'expression des vœux des habitants notables et de tout le peuple de la Montagne.

Inclosure 3 in No. 75

Petition from the Sheiks of Mount Druse

(Traduction.)

NOUS venons de rentrer sous le sceptre paternel de Sa Hauteur. Ainsi que nous l'avons déclaré dans la requête présentée par nous à son Excellence le Seraskir Pacha, nous sommes entièrement aux ordres du Sultan, et nous renonçons à nous immiscer en rien qui concerne le Gouvernement de la Montagne. Nous avons accepté son Excellence Omar Pacha comme chef de la Montagne, ainsi que nous l'avons déclaré précédemment, et nous ne consentirons jamais à la nomination à cette place d'aucun des membres de la famille Chéhab.

Nous avons déclaré, en outre, que la requête présentée par les Emirs, les Cheiks et les Primats, tant Druses que Chrétiens, renfermant leur accession pleine et entière à la nomination de son Excellence Omar Pacha au Gouvernement de la Montagne, ne l'a été que d'un commun accord et du consentement de tous.

Or, si après cela, une des Puissances amies ou autres individus, s'avisait de prétendre que cette requête nous aurait été arrachée par force, une telle prétention ne serait ni ne pourrait être que l'effet d'insinuations perfides de ces esprits malicieux qui ont pour principe d'exagérer toujours les choses, et aux quels nous prions par cette requête que nous avons cachetée de nos propres cachets, de ne point ajouter foi.

La tranquillité qui règne dans notre pays est, en effet, telle qu'elle a

été exprimée dans la requête dont il s'agit, et nous avons la ferme conviction que, sous la domination de son Excellence Omar Pacha, la situation de la Montagne finira par ne laisser plus rien à désirer.

Inclosure 4 in No. 75

Salam Bey to the Grand Vizier.

(Traduction.)

JE prends la liberté d'annoncer à Votre Altesse, que le repos dont jouissent dans ce moment les habitants de la Montagne, est tel qu'il n'a jamais existé.

L'administration actuelle ne laisse, de l'aveu de tout le monde, rien à désirer, et les habitants de la Montagne en sont que très satisfaits. Messieurs les Consuls des Puissances Alliées résidant dans ce pays, sont les seuls qui considèrent les choses sous un autre point de vue.

Induits en erreur par des renseignements aussi inexacts que perfides, ces Messieurs continuent à prétendre dans les rapports qu'ils font parvenir à leurs Chefs de Missions, que tant qu'un Prince de la famille Chéhab n'aura été mis à la tête de la Montagne, on ne devra pas s'attendre à voir la tranquillité y régner complètement, et que le retour au pouvoir du vieux Emir Béchir ne cesse d'être désiré par toute la population.

Le contenu de la requête présentée par les Cheiks Maronites, et quelques uns des membres de la famille Chéhab, à son Excellence le Seraskir Pacha, pour être transmise à la Sublime Porte, est de nature à prouver tout ce qu'il y a d'inexact dans les rapports de Messieurs les Consuls, et Votre Altesse pourra en acquiescer la conviction par les rapports de son Excellence le Seraskir Pacha.

Les plus notables de ces Cheiks se sont rendus en personne auprès du Seraskir Pacha, auquel ils ont remis, en ma présence, la pétition dont il s'agit.

Ils ont saisi cette occasion pour lui exprimer qu'ils avaient beaucoup à se louer du Gouvernement actuel de la Montagne, et qu'ils étaient décidés, dans le cas où, malheureusement pour eux, quelqu'un de la famille Chéhab, ou tout autre individu Druse ou Maronite, viendrait à être nommé au Gouvernement de la Montagne, à se rendre à Constantinople; circonstance qui ne manquerait pas de remettre en danger le repos et la sécurité dont on jouissait sous le sceptre paternel de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Les déclarations de ces Cheiks ne sont que très justes et très conformes à la vérité. Moi-même j'ai acquis la conviction qu'un Gouvernement autre que celui qui existe dans ce moment, serait de nature à présenter de nombreux inconvénients, et la Montagne serait à chaque instant en proie à des troubles sans fin.

Le Trésorier de son Excellence le Seraskir Pacha qui vient d'être expédié à Constantinople, est chargé, en remettant à Votre Altesse les requêtes adressées par les habitants de la Montagne, de lui faire aussi un rapport verbal sur l'état actuel des choses dans ce pays.

Pour ce qui concerne mon retour à Constantinople, je n'attends que les ordres de Sa Hauteur, pour me régler en conséquence.

Inclosure 5 in No. 75

Petition presented by the Notables of the Dyck Family.

(Traduction.)

NOUS, fidèles sujets de la Sublime Porte, avons l'honneur d'exposer très respectueusement, comme il est aussi de notre devoir de le faire, que la nomination de son Excellence Omar Pacha au Gouvernement de la

Montagne, a eu lieu avec l'agrément des Emirs et de tous les Cheiks qui habitent ce pays.

Nous avons l'honneur de déclarer également, qu'un certain nombre d'individus ennemis du bon ordre, se sont réunis à Garber, chez l'Emir Abdoullah, un des membres de la famille Chéhab, et là ils ont rédigé une pétition.

Par cette pétition, qu'ils ont revêtue de faux cachets, ces individus ont déclaré que la requête précédemment présentée par eux, au sujet de leur non-adhésion à la nomination au Gouvernement de la Montagne de qui que ce soit de la famille Chéhab, avait été arrachée par force à la population, et ils l'ont remis entre les mains des Puissances, pour que celles-ci la fissent parvenir, à leur tour, à la Sublime Porte.

Au bas de cette pétition figurent aussi les noms de nos cousins que ces individus y ont appliqués, au moyen de faux cachets qu'ils ont été assez téméraires pour se les faire fabriquer.

Tel est le véritable état des choses, que nous nous empressons d'exposer ici, dans l'intérêt de la vérité.

Inclosure 6 in No. 75

Petition presented by the Emirs of the Shehab Family, and the Musulman and Christian Notables

(Translated on

NOUS nous sommes soumis à l'ordre Impérial de Sa Hautesse qui nous a été transmis par son Excellence le Seraskir Pacha, au sujet de notre délivrance de la domination tyrannique de la famille Chéhab; ordre qui est conforme à la volonté du Tout-Puissant.

En nous plaçant sous les ordres de son Excellence Omar Pacha, dont la nomination au Gouvernement de la Montagne a eu lieu sur notre approbation pleine et entière, nous considérons le choix de ce personnage comme une faveur du ciel à notre égard; car, depuis que nous l'avons eu pour chef nous avons vu le bonheur et la tranquillité de notre pays se rétablir et s'accroître chaque jour davantage.

Malheureusement, nous venons d'être informés que, sur les représentations erronées de certains individus ennemis du bon ordre, les Grandes Puissances amies de la Sublime Porte, ont fait quelques démarches auprès du Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse, à l'effet d'obtenir à notre préjudice, la réintégration dans son ancien poste, de la famille Chéhab.

Notre unique demande est donc, qu'on s'abstienne de prêter l'oreille à de fausses représentations, qui n'ont rien de réel et qui ne tendent à rien moins qu'à troubler notre bonheur et notre tranquillité, que nous sommes si heureux d'avoir recouvrés par la nomination de son Excellence Omar Pacha.

Nous sommes prêts, s'il est nécessaire de le faire, à nous rendre à Constantinople, afin de confirmer, au nom de la population de la Montagne de toute classe et de toute religion, et en notre nom propre, tout ce que nous venons d'avancer.

Nous déclarons, en outre, dans le cas où l'on voudrait nous replacer, à tout prix, sous les ordres d'un des descendants de la famille Chéhab ou de quelque autre illyrien originaire de la Montagne, que nous ne manquerons pas d'aller nous établir dans d'autres pays de l'Empire Ottoman, en abandonnant les nôtres.

Inclosure 7 in No. 75

Statement of Zulfalla Fadier, Agent for the House of Murad.

GIBRAN EL AURA, the Arabic Secretary to Mustapha Pasha, had written a few weeks ago to Emir Beshir Haid Bey of Bremana, urging him to come down to this town to see the Seraskier, and that it was for his good to come down immediately.

Emir Beshir, therefore, by orders of the Pasha, came down eight days ago. As soon as he arrived, Gibran el Aura called upon him, and invited him to go together to take the air near the river of Beyrout; thus Gibran and Emir Beshir went to the river on the following day, and Gibran said as follows:

"You know, oh Emir, that I wish you well in every respect, therefore, all my advice to you cannot but be for your good. The Seraskier wishes you to write a petition, and he has handed him a copy of a petition, the nature of which is nearly as follows:

"We, the undersigned, have formerly presented a petition to the Pasha for the Porte,—that we are anxious that the Governor of Lebanon should be such whom the Porte chooses, and that we may be entirely under the Porte's orders; and, also, that we can by no means accede to have any of the Shehabs as a Governor; and, also, we have stated, and we beg now to state, that we have every reason to be pleased with Omar Pacha's government. He is administering justice, and the country is perfectly tranquil, and now we wish that the same Governor (Omar) shall continue, and we will never submit to have any of the Shehabs; and that if any petition had been sent formerly, by the Chiefs of the Mountain to the Representatives of the friendly Powers, that must be considered false.

Emir Beshir of Bremana was surprised to see this petition, and told Gibran el Aura, "How can we sign such a petition, contrary to our wishes and interest?"

Aura replied:

"I would not sign it, were I sitting upon yourself all my life, and you will be treated as the other people in the world. It is a must, and you must sign it. You must sign it, what I tell you, otherwise you will regret. But if you would sign it, then I promise you the government of the districts between Marjayoun and Mouda. Oh Emir Beshir, do not step to what I tell you. In short, he Gibran induced him to write the petition.

The following day the Emirs were summoned by the Pasha. Emir Beshir, Emir Murad, and Emir Seid Ahmed, waited upon the Pasha, but they were conducted to the Hasnadar. The Hasnadar asked them to sign the petition, and Emir Beshir signed it; when Emir Murad delayed to annex his seal, the Hasnadar looked angry, and said:

"Do you not believe what we say? Give me this petition."

Then Emir Murad got alarmed, and immediately sealed the petition, and of course, the rest have followed.

Gibran el Aura had told the Emirs, "Take care not to say any thing."

It was in this mode of proceeding the petition was signed.

No. 76

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 123)

My Lord,

Constantinople, June 9, 1842

THE day after the meeting which took place between my colleagues and myself, relative to the report of our conference respecting Syria, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me, and offered a very considerate

and friendly explanation, of the line which he had found it his duty to take on that occasion. It is but justice to state that he expressed himself in a manner creditable alike to his own good feelings and to the declared intentions of his Court. What he said amounted in substance to an admission that the declaration which he had made on the preceding night, warranted an impression that the more was to be expected from him—that, notwithstanding this appearance, he was no less desirous than myself to effect the object of our instructions; that he meant to give proof of his sincerity, by addressing a separate and confidential representation to Sarim Effendi for the same purpose, and that in adopting a peculiar method of communicating his views, such as he remarked as he should naturally employ in a question exclusively Russian, he fully reckoned upon making the deepest possible impression in favour of the cause which we had all been equally instructed to support.

A few days later, Monsieur Thow sent for my perusal an instruction addressed to his interpreter in terms similar to what he had led me to expect. This instruction was intended for communication to Sarim Effendi, and I thought it contained passages marking out Russia as occupying a position in some respects different from that of the other Five Powers, and as entertaining peculiar solicitude for the interests of the Porte. I took it was well calculated on the whole to throw the weight of Russian counsels into the same scale as ours. In fairness to Russia, I should have liked to procure a copy of this document for your Lordship's information, but it appears that Monsieur de Thow only felt himself at liberty to intimate the possibility of its being communicated by way of St. Petersburg. I took advantage of this assistance which, however limited in degree, Monsieur de Thow had thus shown me to view the favourable impression which I had derived from the perusal of his instruction to the Russian Dragoman, and to express a hope of its contributing to produce some change in the councils of the Porte, though I could not entirely conceal my apprehension that the separate character of the step might expose it to misrepresentation, and also my conviction that the adoption of a separate mode of proceeding by the Representative of Russia would effectually prevent the other Representatives from acting in that collective form, which, in their judgment, was most likely to overcome the objections of the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

No. 77

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 24)

(No. 124.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, June 9, 1842.

EARLY on the 27th ultimo an hour or two before I proceeded to attend the conference held at Sarim Effendi's house, Monsieur de Kletzel the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, called upon me, and communicated to me a confidential instruction in which he had just received from the Austrian Minister by the Vienna post. The object of the instruction was threefold. It contained a statement of what had passed in conversation between Prince Metternich and Ali Effendi, the Turkish Ambassador accredited to Her Majesty's Court, on the subject of Mount Lebanon and its Government; it authorized the Austrian Representative here to employ very clear and emphatic language in urging the Turkish Ministry to re-instate the Sheh al-famry, and it suggested some facilities for settling the Syrian Affair, the principal feature of which was the formation of the Druses into a separate community under a chief of their own nation. Prince Metternich described this modified plan of settlement as the only one which, upon mature reflection, he could adopt, and recommend in preference to every other.

Monsieur de Kletzel, in communicating this instruction to me, stated that he was in possession of despatches from Ali Effendi to his Government upon the same subject, and requested to know my opinion as to the most advisable mode of proceeding. After some discussion, and as much reflection as the hurry of the moment would allow, I submitted to him whether it might not be better to defer the communication of Prince Metternich's plan till after the conference, when the Turkish Minister would have leisure to examine it in connection with Ali Effendi's report of his conversation with the Prince, and when there would also be time for ascertaining the sentiments of our colleagues respecting it. I added, that Monsieur de Kletzel could not more efficiently promote our common object than by introducing at the conference the luminous and effective language of his instructions with the high authority of Prince Metternich's name; and I proposed to sound the Res Effendi myself, by throwing out the idea of some eventual modification of what we had hitherto been instructed to advise; whereby a more speedy and satisfactory adjustment of the Syrian affair might be effected.

Your Lordship will perceive by the report of what took place at our conference that such was, in fact, the course pursued by Monsieur de Kletzel, and myself. The forcible terms in which Monsieur de Kletzel expressed the opinion of his Government, could hardly fail of making some impression upon the Turkish Ministers; but it is remarkable that neither at the conference, nor since, has Sarim Effendi discovered any inclination in favour of Prince Metternich's suggestion; and the determination of the Grand Vizier to persist in that line of policy, which is mainly his own, does not appear to have undergone the slightest modification, either in consequence of the Internuncio's declaration to him before his departure for Brussels, or upon receiving another proof of the uniformity of opinion prevailing among the Five Powers.

A few days after the conference Monsieur de Kletzel informed me that he had abandoned all hope of deriving advantage from the plan suggested in his instructions, and, together with that hope, the intention to bring it under the consideration of his colleagues. The idea, however, though but imperfectly shadowed out by me at the conference, appears to have found favour with the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, and I observed that it was reproduced and more distinctly presented in the confidential instruction which he subsequently sent in to Sarim Effendi, through the medium of his interpreter at the Porte.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

No. 78

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 24)

(No. 127.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, June 9, 1842.

MY other despatches of this date inform your Lordship of the circumstances under which the Syrian negotiation has come to a stand. I cannot at present perceive any likelihood of our being able to overcome the resistance of the Porte without fresh instructions. I must, therefore, for my part, have recourse to your Lordship, hoping that the forced tranquillity which now subsists in Mount Lebanon, may continue for some time longer, and that the removal of the Albanian troops, and the adoption of immediate measures for the restitution of the plundered property, which I have again urged strongly at the Porte, and for which without assurances of success, may afford some consolation to the inhabitants of that district during another anxious period of uncertainty and apprehension.

With deference to your Lordship's judgment, it appears to me that, supposing the Five Powers do not see fit to authorize the employment of stronger language by their Representatives, we have no choice but either to acquiesce in the permanent destitution of the Shehab family, or to render its restoration more palatable, by proposing to accompany it with

measures tending to increase the authority of the Porte, and to secure the peace of the country. The Porte has hitherto manifested no inclination to enter into any such arrangement; but the case would, perhaps, be different, if a proposal, founded upon that principle, were addressed to her under the immediate sanction either of Her Majesty's Government alone, or of the Five Powers acting in concert.

It occurs to me that if such a plan were entertained the following outline, comprehending Prince Metternich's suggestion respecting the Druses, might possibly be found not wholly undeserving of attention. The whole Government of Syria might be entrusted to a single Pasha of the highest rank, and, under him, each district might be administered by an inferior officer,—a Christian for the Maronites, and a Druse for the Druses. The other high governors having no military command, except by delegation from the Chief, and their duties being purely of an administrative character. The Druses might be further engaged with having an accredited agent at the Porte, and a Turkish officer charged with communicating between the Christian Emir and the Turkish Governor-General might be stationed, perhaps, even with the addition of a small military guard, at the chief place in the mountain. A firman regulating the payment of tribute, and securing the ancient privileges of the inhabitants, whether Druses or Maronites, might help to cement the arrangement. With respect to the villages of mixed population, they might be placed under the administration of those Emirs who have taken part with Mustapha Pasha, subordinate, however, to some other authority.

I am not aware that any insurmountable or even serious objection could be maintained against this plan of settlement, and the Porte being only averse to the restoration of the Shehab family, because it is her policy to exclude the Christians from any participation in the Government of the country, would not, perhaps, reject the Emir Emin under the restrictions proposed above, the moment that they felt the necessity of admitting a compromise similar to what I have suggested.

It is not without much need of your Lordship's indulgence that I venture to submit this idea for consideration, and I beg leave to add that, in the event of my being instructed to submit and recommend it to the Porte, a clear explanation of the grounds on which Her Majesty's Government declines to renounce their support of the Shehab family would be indispensable to afford it a fair chance of acceptance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 79

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 4.)

No. 129)

My Lord,

Constantinople, June 17, 1842

SINCE I last had the honour of addressing your Lordship on the affairs of Syria, the petitions, announced by Colonel Roer, in favour of the Shehab family have been received here by one of the agents of the Maronite Patriarch, and, after some hesitation, presented by his colleague's interpreter to the Porte. I am told that the Reis Effendi, on receiving them, inquired whether any of the names subscribed were also to be found on the petitions sent up by Mustapha Pasha. Upon receiving an affirmative answer to this question, he further inquired why the petitions had not been presented through the Seraskier, and a silent smile was the reply which his Excellency obtained from the bearer of them.

Of these petitions I have the honour to inclose copies in translation herewith, and your Lordship will not fail to observe on perusing them, that the ex-Emir Beshir is proposed, together with his son the Emir Emin, as the individual whose appointment to the Government of Mount Lebanon would be particularly acceptable to its inhabitants.

I told the agents who consulted me, as I have told my colleagues who inquired what I intended to do, that the introduction of the ex-Emir

Beshir's name into the petitions was a bar to any active or emphatic recommendation of them on my part, and that all I could do was to apprise the Reis Effendi of my acquaintance with the fact of their presentation, and to hold them up as an additional evidence in corroboration of what we had stated and urged at our Conference with the Turkish Ministers.

One of the Maronite Agents who had consulted me as to the presentation of the petitions, proposed to erase the Emir Beshir's name, and to leave only that of his son. I told him that I had no more advice to give upon this point than upon the other, and that in my judgment, it was for those who were immediately concerned, to act in respect of both points as their interest and sense of duty concurred to require.

Although the grounds of my conduct, on this occasion, were independent of those which might actuate my Colleagues, I could not but see in what had occurred at our last meeting an additional motive to confirm me in the resolution thus adopted. I cannot conceal my conviction that nothing short of fresh instructions or a new and unforeseen incident is at all likely to give any effective weight to our representations on behalf of the Shehab family. The Russian Chargé d'Affaires, I know, is ready to make a separate communication to Surim Effendi in favour of the petitions; but it must be made in his own way and without the apparent concurrence of his Colleagues. Is it not, therefore, better, that each of the five Representatives should act in the same manner, than that we should agree to expose, by a partial combination, the real want of uniformity which subsists? With respect to the Porte, I cannot perceive any symptoms of a change of purpose there; and those who were at one time inclined to entertain a hope of improvement, have settled down into an opinion similar to my own.

Under these circumstances, I am more than ever desirous that your Lordship should take into early and favourable consideration the suggestions contained in my last despatches. I cannot conceive in what other way the question at issue can be settled; and whether I look to the Sultan, to the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, to the interests of Europe, or to those, more especially, of Great Britain, it appears to me that the least delay beyond what our present situation prescribes, is to be deprecated.

Supposing that the reinstatement of the Shehab family, in the person of its least objectionable member, is a point which cannot be relinquished by the Five Powers without injustice and manifest discredit, there remains but the one particular compromise which I have already had the honour to submit. The plan to which I refer might possibly be made more palatable to the Turkish Government by placing the investiture of the Emir in the hands of the Governor-General of Syria, by allowing to the latter, in case of the ruling Emir's ~~decease~~ or deposition, the choice of a successor upon the presentation of three names by the people, or by admitting a system of mixed government based upon the two-fold principle of strengthening the authority and safeguarding the pride of the Porte, without altogether acknowledging the claims of the Shehab family. The interests of the people, I firmly believe, would be more effectually provided for by a distinct and authoritative sanction of their privileges, as to religion, taxation, and local administrative independence, than by any advantage secured to the presiding Emir and his family.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 79

Petition from the Notables of Mount Lebanon to the Sublime Porte.

(Traduzione.)

Maeatà!

AVENDO la Suprema Provvidenza commesso alla Maeatà Vostra Imperiale l'importante cura della popolazione Libanese, penetrata dai

più umani, più e generosi sentimenti, volendo ridonare la pace al Libano agitato da intestine dissensioni ed al più presto riparare ad ogni disordine, degno era inviare in Beyrouth Scim Bey accio riconoscente la volontà ed i bisogni del popolo, le riferisse alla Maestà Vostra disposta ad adottare li mezzi più espedienti a ristabilire nella Montagna la tranquillità ed il ben essere. Con questa benefica disposizione, l'animo vostro paterno mostravasi affatto inclinato ad accordarci libera la scelta di chi avesse a governare il Libano. Inseguendo pertanto noi il comune desiderio della Cristianità Libanese abbiamo con suppliche alla Maestà Vostra con bella arte esposto le altre brame li Cristiani della Siria, che il ritorno della famiglia Schehabi, che l'essere retti da un individuo Cristiano di questa famiglia, in specie dall' Emir Bechir, o dal di lui figlio, l'Emir Emin, comechè cunassati più atti d'ogni altro, e meglio forniti d'ottime qualità e prerogative per amministrare rettamente la giustizia, e ridonare al Libano la pace, questo ardentemente chiedere ed impiorare dalla Sovrana Vostra clemenza.

Le nostre dimande e preghiere però non produssero sinora effetto alcuno: che se non a Maestà Vostra non si scorge che bontà leana, e grandezza d'animo; li Commissarij della Vostra Corte al contrario ad altro non tendono, che a torre di mezzo la libertà di paleare e d'esporre i sinceri loro voti, che ad incutere i timori vostri il terrore e lo spavento, che a tradire apertamente i popoli del Libano. Cercano dessi impedire che la verità giunga al orecchio di Vostra Maestà.

Se il popolo chiede instantemente venir governato da un principe Cristiano della famiglia Schehabi, li Commissarij di Mustapha Pascià penetrarono la Montagna per avere apposti sui d'agili ed altre supplicazioni contrarie che si fanno firmare, o coll'uso o colle promesse ovvero con la forza delle potestà in un altro li Maestà Vostra avere confermi a Governatore del Libano Omar Pascià; se taluno resiste a cotali ordini, od osa manifestare il desiderio che venga richiamato al Governo del Libano un principe della famiglia Schehabi, tosto cattura l'indignazione degli agenti del Gran Seraskiere, e viene minacciato d'essere severamente punito di tanta temerità.

In tal modo siamo impediti, a cagione delle comminate pene di apparere liber i nostri sensi a Maestà Vostra. Li vostri Commissarij intanto che pure da Mustapha Pascià impediscono, vi trasmettono nuove suppliche contrarie alla volontà de' Cristiani Libanesi, per carpire affattamente la vostra fede, O Sire, a danno nostro.

Noi quantunque così oppressi, osiamo per anco far ricorso a Voi, ottimo Monarca ed impetrare sopra di noi e del popolo Libanese, la Vostra umanità o bontà: provvedete di grazia alle incessanti e gravi nostre calamità: credete piuttosto a questa supplica, che di proprio moto utiliamo a piedi dell' Augusto Vostro seggio, anzicchè a qualsivoglia altra venga a Voi spedita dai Commissarij di Mustapha Pascià, poichè quelle che saranno opposte alla presente, se bene da noi stessi, e da nostri contumaci firmati non meritano considerazione per essere con indegni mezzi dagli agenti di Mustapha Pascià estorte.

Il 17 di Rebi-ul-Ewel, 1259.

Seguono le firme dei capi del popolo.

| | |
|---|----|
| La famiglia degli Emir Abilamek e Murad | 17 |
| La famiglia Gazeno—Supplica con | 20 |
| La famiglia Habusci id. | 17 |
| La famiglia Dakdah id. | 13 |
| La famiglia Curi Salek id. | 8 |

In tutto 75

N.B. Ogni famiglia ha presentato una supplica conforme alle equitate firme, e da tutte le cinque petizioni si è desunta la presente.

Inclosure 2 in No. 70

Petition from a Deputation of the Provinces of the Libanon to the Sultan.

Sire,

25, Rebi-ul-Ewel, 1258

MOSSA la Maestà Vostra a compassione dal miserando stato in cui si trovano da lunga pezza piombati gli abitanti del Libano, benignamente loro accordava la facoltà di proporre alla Sublima Porta quel Governatore che riputato fosse più atto a ristabilire in queste contrade la pubblica tranquillità e sicurezza.

Dietro tale degnazione Sovrana fuo datti 16 Rebi-ul-Ewel abbiamo avanzato a piè del Vostro Trono una supplica in cui Vi esponemmo essere questi l'unico mezzo di riparare alla nostra sciagura, di richiamare cioè al governo del Libano il vecchio Emir-Bechir, ed il di lui figlio l'Emir-Emin, comechè ben noti per tutte quelle qualità che ad un tanto incarico sono indispensabili, e di provvedere a che risarciti fossimo de' danni che li nemici nostri ci hanno arrecato, con torre, depredare, e rovinare li nostri beni e le nostre sostanze.

Questa riparazione, abbenche lo più volte richiesta non ci venne per anco accordata, ed in quanto alla prima domanda, non solo non venne esaudita, ma quello ch'è peggio, si è, che a deludere le nostre aspettative li Commissarij della Vostra Corte si sono ad ogni modo adoperati.

Egino infranti i Vostri Sovrani comandi compilavano una supplica tendente a comprovare qualmente il popolo tutto pienamente soddisfatto del Governo d'Omar Pascià, null' altro bramava e chiedeva, se non la conferma di questi a Governatore del Libano, e l'esclusione da tal posto di tutti i suoi rivali. Li Commissarij per avvalorare astrigevano poi con vie di terrore i principali del Libano a firmarla a nome della popolazione. Un' altra somigliante supplica al ritorno di Sua Eccellenza Mustapha Pascià da Cusca dove a prima vista egli e per mezzo di agenti di Mustapha ed Omar Pascià, si faceva medesimamente colle minacce sottoscrivere e suggellare. Non contenti di ciò, dopo l'arrivo in Beyrouth del nuovo Commissario della Sublima Porta Selim Bey, so ne redigeva una terza a nome del popolo concepita nello stesso senso, coll'aggiunta, ch'ove altre suppliche alla Maestà Vostra si presentassero in contrario, non s'avesse a tenere conto delle medesime, come opposte al vero; e questa terza istanza si faceva munire de' sigilli de' principali Cristiani del Libano, che venivano forzati indegnamente a firmarla come procuratori e delegati del popolo. Un siffatto modo di procedere, comechè basso, ed iniquo, non può ameno di dispiacere grandemente alla Maestà Vostra, nel mentrechè per altro canto è oltraggiante al popolo del Libano, cui è vietato barbaramente di esprimere suoi voti. Per constatare la verità dell'asserto, noi abbiamo interrogato coloro che ceduto avevano agli ordini de' Commissarij, se effettivamente la volontà della nazione fosse conforme alla petizione da essi firmata; se fossero stati a ciò deputati dal popolo; e con quel diritto avessero a nome del popolo Libanese firmata.

La loro risposta si fu, che senza essere tampoco delegati dal popolo a firmare una tale domanda, avevano ciò eseguito sospinti da dura necessità, dietro le intimidazioni loro fatte dai Commissarij di sua Eccellenza Mustapha Pascià, e suoi dependenti.

Dalla lettera scritta dai delegati del popolo agli Emir Scirk sottoscritti alla suddetta supplica, non che dalla relativa risposta di questi a' primi, la Maestà Vostra rileverà al certo, quali prepotenze ed ingiustizie si commettano nella Montagna dagli agenti della Porta contro i Cristiani, sudditi Vostri fedelissimi.

Prostrati quindi a piedi dell' Augusto Vostro Trono, vi supplichiamo O Sire, diate men retta agli scritti che per mezzo di sua Eccellenza Mustapha Pascià o de' suoi dependenti Vi vengono trasmessi, che a queste fervide nostre preci, che liberissime sono e da nessuna violenza estorte; che di conseguenza generosamente Vi degniate nominare a principe e governatore nostro l'Emir-Bechir di Schehabi; od il di lui figlio l'Emir-Emin, per il bene e sicurezza comune; che diate le benigne Vostre provi-

denze, affinché veniamo ad essere risarciti delle perdite ingiustamente sofferte per la proditoria altrui aggressione. Noi riponiamo nella clemenza della Maestà Vostra ogni nostra fidanza.

Firmati) I Deputati delle Province di Gebail, Baham, Curia, Kesruan, Meten, Zahle, Harbilbuem, Harbilquiro, Scehar Schil, Scial, Dior-al-Camar, Mannasif, e Acalim.

[In tutto sessanta sei sigilli]

Inclosure 3 in No. 79

The Christians of Mount Lebanon to certain Emirs and Sheiks

(Traduzione dall' Arabo.)

Ci è pervenuto a contestazione essersi recato da voi un Commissario di Sua Eccellenza il Seraskiere con una supplica tendente a provare alla Subl. Porta che il presente sultano del Governo Dinar Pascià nel Libano, null' altro bramavamo, se non che venisse confermato a nostro Governatore il suominato Pascià, e fosse per sempre esclusa dal governo del Libano la famiglia Sciahabi, od altro qualsivoglia principe sia Cristiano che Druso; avere voi una tale istanza, fatta a nome nostro, firmata come munita d'un nostro mandato a ciò; e che avete in essa dichiarata, ogni qualunque supplica si fosse di seguito inoltrata alla Subl. Porta in contrario a questa come falsa si dovesse considerare, e non avvenuta. Sorpresi per tanto che vi sia stata per voi stessi accollato un tale incarico contra la volontà espressa di tutti i Cristiani Maroniti, e la presente vi presentiamo e congiuriamo in nome di Dio a risponderci, chi mai vi abbia investito della qualità di procuratori ed agenti del popolo, per apporre li vostri sigilli a piè della supplica sumentovata, a nome del medesimo?

V'interpelliamo inoltre a risponderci se noi tutti e si per noi non in qualche modo a parte della da voi presa deliberazione? Voi delegati del popolo Maronita noi foste mai ne poterate a buon diritto a nome de' Cristiani del Libano, firmare una siffatta supplica, meno ancora tacciare di falsità e nullità le suppliche che per noi alla Porta si sarebbero umiliate dappoi. Sudditi fedeli di Sua Altezza il Sultano noi conosciamo abbastanza li doveri che dalla nostra sudditanza derivano per non abusare della Sovrana clemenza, con produrre scritti che la nulla e mera verità non contengano.

Ciò stante, vi domandiamo ragione dell' operato.

(Firmati) I Cristiani del Libano.

Answer to the foregoing

VENIAMO di ricevere la vostra lettera, colla questa ci domandate ragioni della supplica da noi firmata a nome vostro, stata poscia trasmessa alla Subl. Porta e con qual diritto ci siamo determinati a ciò fare.

In risposta alla medesima, vi notifichiamo esserci stata presentata detta supplica concepita in que' termini da un Commissario di sua Eccellenza Mustapha Pascià, che ci ha intimato da parte di questi d'apporvi i nostri sigilli.

Noi ben sapevamo non essere né procuratori né delegati del popolo Maronita, ne essere stata offerta alcuna facoltà di intervenire a talatto in nome del popolo, ed appunto perchè così ci trovammo a non poter agire a nome del popolo, abbiamo risposto al Commissario di sua Eccellenza non poter eseguire i suoi voleri, poichè il popolo era ignaro di ciò, nè era in noi la qualità di rappresentanti del medesimo. massime a fronte dell' esposto vieppiù insisteva il Commissario di sua Eccellenza acciò nostra fosse quella supplica de' sigilli nostri senza più oltre incagare, in esecuzione agli ordini ricevuti, l'abbiamo sigillata.

In quanto poi a ciò che contensi nella supplica da noi firmata, avesse poi la Subl. Porta a riconoscere per falsa qualunque istanza fosse per inoltrarsi da voi. Noi vi pettiamo che se abbiamo posto a piè della supplica in tali termini espressa i nostri sigilli, ciò abbiamo fatto, perchè ci è stato ordinato e senza conoscerne permanentemente il senso e che a altror de non sappiamo che voi abbiate mai avanzato alla Subl. Porta supplica alcuna, che di falso tacciar si possa.

4 Maggio, 1842.

La famiglia degl' Emir Abilemek.
La famiglia Gazeno.
La famiglia Habusci
La famiglia Cur Salek
La famiglia Dakdah.
[45 sigilli]

No. 80

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 16.)

No. 133.

(Extract)

Constantinople, June 30, 1842.

WITH respect to Syria, his Excellency the Reis Effendi produced the petition presented to him by the agent of the Maronite Patriarch, together with two or three fresh documents transmitted by Mustapha Pasha. Translations of these papers are to be communicated to me; and my attention was directed to a circumstance, which, in the absence of proper explanations, appears to throw no small degree of suspicion upon the signatures and character of the petitions. It seems that, of forty individuals alleged to have signed by compulsion the petitions against the restoration of the Shehab family, only three have subscribed their names to the statement denying their having pretended to speak for the nation at large; and the remaining thirty-seven signatures, though subscribed to the counter petition, are not to be found among those which figure on the petition sent up by Mustapha Pasha.

I have engaged my word to give this circumstance and the documents, with which it is connected, every fair and reasonable consideration, observing, in the mean time, that the prayer of the petitioners went far to corroborate what I had joined with my colleagues in stating at our collective conference, and referring to the opinions, which, in concert with them, I had expressed on that occasion, but not omitting to remark, that the recommendation of the ex-Emir Beshir was far from being in harmony with the wishes and impressions of Her Majesty's Government.

The Reis Effendi affirmed that none of those Ministers had as yet made any communication to the Porte respecting the newly received petitions; and that, when he was not sparing in the charges of cruelty and rapacity urged against the ex-Emir Beshir, he showed but little disposition to treat the character of his son, the Emir Emin, with more forbearance.

No. 81

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 16.)

(No. 136.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, June 27, 1842.

AT the risk of exhausting your Lordship's patience, I must again revert to the question of Mount Lebanon and its inextricable affairs.

My latest accounts from Beyrout are chiefly copies of those which were discussed by your Lordship, a Consul Ross and Mr Moore in the early part of the month. They tend but too much to corroborate the charges alleged against Mustapha Pasha, and afford additional evidence

both of the extreme difficulty of bringing the country into order upon either of the two plans, and of the extreme hazard of prolonging its present state of uncertainty, mistrust, and alarm.

A letter from Colonel Rose, addressed to myself, and dated the 11th instant, describes the agitation produced in the Kesrouan by the violent proceedings of Mustapha Pasha, and the efforts made by him and the other Consuls to maintain the Sheiks in a state of submission, which terminated in the flight of many, and the seizure of a few. Of this letter I have the honour to inclose an extract herewith, on the chance of its containing intelligence not previously known to your Lordship.

The Porte has probably received an account of the same transactions from her own agents in Syria, but I have communicated verbally to Sarim Effendi, and also confidentially in a more important quarter, the substance of what has come to my knowledge respecting them, with a strong comment upon the impolicy and injustice which they display, and an urgent entreaty that measures of a corrective nature may be immediately adopted.

I do not venture to expect any satisfactory result from these communications. Your Lordship is already aware that the Grand Vizier, the majority of the Council, the Sultan, and his personal advisors, are, without exception, of the same opinion as the Seraskier, whose conduct in the great command which has been intrusted to him is, to say the least of it, so extremely reprehensible. My only real hope of effecting any improvement is that the Sultan, for the sake of the peace to be taken by Her Majesty's Government with reference to my late communications to your Lordship, the Sultan, I trust, perceives the necessity of coming to a settlement, and when he is satisfied that the Turkish view of the subject has been fairly considered by England, and judged in a friendly and unprejudiced manner, he will be disposed to adopt the advice of Her Majesty's Government, although it may not be in complete harmony with his present wishes and convictions. No such advice, I am sure, will be given without a full and dispassionate consideration of the question at issue in all its bearings, and the interests of the Christians in Syria and the Sultan's authority, as much as for the welfare of the Christians in Mount Lebanon.

It is impossible to deny that the question presents very great difficulties, which, although they may be in part, or chiefly, the consequences of Turkish misrule and local intrigue, are nevertheless too real and too deeply rooted to be overlooked, or set aside with indifference.

To be effectual for the maintenance of order, the reinstatement of a Christian Emir in the administration of the Mountain, will require the full support of Turkish power. Yet Colonel Rose has expressed his apprehension that the Turkish authorities would secretly act against the Prince when reinstated in his former position.

It would be almost impossible to reunite the Druses and Christians under a Maronite Chief, and the separation of the two communities under different chiefs, would also have its difficulties, inconveniences, and dangers. Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus has recorded a strong opinion against the adoption of that measure.

The Turks have succeeded in dividing the Christians into two parties, and arraying the passions and interests of both against each other, by reviving the old claims which have been long since confiscated by the Shehab family, and by sanctioning claims to property long since confiscated.

It would, further, be a great mistake to suppose that all the personal virtues and sound principles of government wanting on the side of the Turks, are to be found in full perfection on the side of the Christians.

Her Majesty's Consul at Beyrout, in writing upon this subject, remarks, that the whole body of the Lebanon chiefs, not excepting even the clergy, is generally in favour of a Christian Prince, the results of his restoration to power are now become very problematical.

The appearance of support by a considerable portion of the Sheiks

and Emirs, though obtained in favour of a Turkish Governor by corrupt means, are, to a certain degree, embarrassing; especially when many who have signed the petitions on that side, declare their readiness to come up to Constantinople, and confirm their signatures by personal testimony. Some at least among those petitioners must be influenced by strong motives of interest; and they can hardly have failed to raise an insurmountable barrier between themselves and the party to which they are opposed.

In many instances the ancient ties which bound the Chiefs to their dependents, and formed so many links in the chain of social order, must now be greatly weakened, if not altogether broken and dissolved.

Other considerations of scarcely less importance deserve to be kept in view.

There is nothing in the views of the Maronite population, but what is calculated to deprive the Maronite population of all self-confidence. They have done nothing for themselves, and in every direction they have found either hostile neighbours, faithless protectors, or uncertain friends. The general preference of the Shehab family does not appear to be of an ardent or enthusiastic character. It would seem to be the offspring of custom and comparison, rather than of positive approbation and attachment.

Quite as much confidence would seem to be placed in the vigour of the old Emir Beshir, as in the untried merits of his son. The agents of the Patriarch would not scruple to insert either, or almost any, name, in the petitions committed to them for presentation to the Porte.

It may also be remarked, that the task of a Christian Emir, replaced in the government of the Mountain, is becoming daily more difficult, not only because the power of the Porte is exercised with greater mildness and regularity than heretofore, the faults and oppressions of an ignorant local chief are more likely to be felt and resented, in proportion as the mountaineers are shaken out of their old habits, and acquire, by painful experience, a wider range of comparison and observation.

In connexion with these sources of doubt and perplexity, there remains that partial difficulty which bears upon the districts inhabited by a mixed population of Druses and Christians. While the power of the Porte is exercised with greater mildness and regularity than heretofore, the faults and oppressions of an ignorant local chief are more likely to be felt and resented, in proportion as the mountaineers are shaken out of their old habits, and acquire, by painful experience, a wider range of comparison and observation.

In connexion with these sources of doubt and perplexity, there remains that partial difficulty which bears upon the districts inhabited by a mixed population of Druses and Christians. Upon a review of all these circumstances, and others which will not escape your Lordship's penetration, I cannot look forward without anxiety and apprehension to the future condition of Mount Lebanon, whatever may be the ultimate decision of the Allies or of the Porte. It bodes fair to become a standing field of battle for the array of adverse systems of hostile passions, and perhaps also of conflicting foreign intrigues; and there is but too much reason to doubt the possibility of preventing this evil by a hasty and unaided reinstatement of the deposed family, even if that be accomplished without the employment of stronger measures than any which the Allies have hitherto allowed themselves to contemplate.

I repeat, that it is only from your Lordship and from Her Majesty's Government that the means of bringing about a final settlement of affairs in Syria, can now be expected to proceed; and it is quite unnecessary for me to urge the paramount importance of hastening that decision which is rendered necessary by the obstinate adherence of the Porte to her own view of the subject, and by the inefficiency of those exertions which I have made, in concert with the Representatives of the other Five Powers, to overcome it.

They, it seems, like myself, continue to take advantage of such incidents as arise to operate on the opinions of the Turkish Ministers, but our action under the present instructions is too feeble to pass for more than a reminder of what we urged at our conference, and an evidence of the attention still directed by the five principal Cabinets of Europe to the course of events in Syria, and the final condition of that province.

I have, &c.
Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

has proved himself, in the opinion of all, to be unequal to the difficulties of the situation, and has made his maintenance in the Government impracticable. His uncle and predecessor the ex-Emir Beshir, by his long administration of rapacity and oppression, has rendered himself so odious, that his restoration to power would be even worse than the nomination of a Turkish Governor.

Your Excellency has not been instructed to press upon the Porte the appointment of the Emir Emin, the son of the ex-Emir Beshir; but from his character and popularity in the district, Her Majesty's Government would have seen his nomination with satisfaction, and would have been disposed to think that it might have insured to the Mountain the blessings of tranquillity and good government. At the same time, whatever may be the recommendation of this individual, it is clear that the pretensions of the family of Shehab, resting upon no positive hereditary right, are not such as we could safely maintain in the face of all opposition by the Turkish Government.

We must also recollect that the Druses may entertain obstinate and well-founded objections to the restoration of this family to supreme power. In addition to the causes of ancient hostility, the recent enmities of the Maronite Princes have gradually weakened, and even destroyed the authority of the Sheks Beshir, or local Druse Governors, who exercised jurisdiction, to a certain extent, over the individuals of the Mountain, but which office has been finally annihilated altogether by the tyranny of the ex-Emir Beshir.

I do not view the existing state of Mount Lebanon, and having reference to the long-continued hostility of the Druses and Maronites, rendered still more inveterate by recent events, it has always appeared to me that the most natural and judicious course would be, for the Porte to select a native Chief from among each of these people, who should respectively govern his own nation, under the superintendence and control of a Supreme Turkish Authority, either at Damascus or elsewhere, but which should never be brought into immediate contact with the population of either persuasion. In this case, of course, it would be necessary that Omar Pasha should be displaced from the government of the Mountain, even if his removal had not been required by other considerations.

I have been informed that difficulties would attend the execution of this plan, in consequence of the great intermixture of the Druses and Maronites, which might render their separate government scarcely practicable. This may certainly be the case in particular districts, and some means must be devised to remedy the inconvenience; but it is not believed to exist to any great extent; nor would it present any insuperable obstacles to the adoption of the project.

At all events, the Austrian Cabinet has recently suggested a mode of settlement of this description, which I am happy to find that the Turkish Ambassador at Her Majesty's Court is disposed to view favourably, and which, before his departure from Vienna, he had already recommended to the consideration of his Government.

Your Excellency has also seen in such an arrangement, the best practical solution of our existing difficulties; and I have reason to hope that it will not be otherwise regarded by your Colleagues at Constantinople.

I do not think it material very accurately to weigh the relative value of the petitions from Syria, received by the Turkish Government, and by the Representatives of the Allied Powers. That a Christian population should profess to desire the appointment of a Turkish Governor, certainly appears extraordinary, and affords reason to suppose that such petitions must have been obtained by undue means. At the same time, it must be admitted that the restoration of the ex-Emir Beshir, which is comprised

in the prayer of the counter-petitions, is as little likely to be the real desire of the people as the establishment of a Turkish Pasha.

It is not easy, in any country, to ascertain the genuine opinions and wishes of its inhabitants in matters of this kind. But in Syria, without the aid of free inquiry and deliberation, and exposed to every species

of intimidation, corruption, and intrigue, anything like a popular voice, expressed in this matter, must be very uncertain.

Our chief obligation is to look to the execution of our own engagements, to the security of the Christian population, the preservation of their privileges, and the general improvement of the district. But we must be careful not to attempt too much; and we ought to recollect, in our endeavours to promote the welfare of the inhabitants, that we are dealing with a Turkish province, into which it must always be difficult to introduce the enlightened systems of government which prevail in many States of Europe.

Your Excellency will, acting in concert with your Colleagues, submit to the Porte a proposal for the establishment of an administration in Syria, founded on the principle I have already explained. You will recommend it by such means, and under such modifications, as may be most likely to obtain the assent of the Turkish Government, and to facilitate the success of the measure when adopted. Your local knowledge and experience will enable you to offer the necessary suggestions for this purpose.

With reference to the mode of your communications, I am disposed to concur with your Excellency in thinking, not only that it will not be necessary henceforward to act upon the Porte by joint notes or representations; but that it will be preferable, except perhaps on very peculiar and urgent occasions, to abstain from such a system, as presenting too much the air of assumed mastery on the part of the Allied Powers, and therefore likely to irritate the Porte, and to excite its resistance, rather than to conciliate and to persuade.

But if it be thought desirable to lay aside this system, it is most essential that the same practice of mutual consultation and of deference towards each other, which has hitherto prevailed amongst the Missions of the Allied Courts at Constantinople, should still be adhered to, and a strictly concurrent line of action adopted on all great occasions; although each Minister may present to the Porte the result of such joint and united deliberations, in the manner which his own judgment may lead him to consider as best calculated to produce the end desired by all.

I cannot close this despatch without again calling the attention of your Excellency to the continued presence in Syria of Albanian troops. You have already protested against the employment of this irregular and undisciplined force in such a service; and I have to enjoin you to repeat your remonstrances, in case they should unfortunately still be necessary. These barbarians have committed outrages of the most revolting description, and have spread terror throughout the peaceful inhabitants of the country. In a province where so much is required to conciliate the good will and affection of the Christian population, it appears a species of perverseness quite inexplicable, to employ a force of this lawless and ferocious character, and whose fidelity to the Turkish Government itself is even doubtful.

In my first instructions to your Excellency, relating to Syria, I pointed out the importance of employing only regular and well-disciplined troops in the province; and I am quite at a loss to understand how advice so obviously consistent with the true interests of the Porte, should have been entirely disregarded.

I have urged this subject in the strongest manner on the attention of the Ambassador of the Sultan at Her Majesty's Court, who has promised to represent to his Government the necessity which exists for the immediate recall of the Albanians from Syria.

One thing is certain. With every desire to respect the independence of the Porte, to abstain from all interference in the internal administration of the empire, and, making allowance for the many and great difficulties in the government of Syria, the Powers of Christendom will never tolerate a continuance of these excesses, which are, in truth, perfectly gratuitous, and which it is manifestly in the power of the Turkish Government at once to check.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ABERDEEN

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 145.)

My Lord,

Buyukderé, July 7, 1842

THE last Vienna post brought to the Austrian Legation from Prince Metternich the report of a conference held between his Highness and the Ottoman Ambassador there on the subject of Syrian affairs.

Monsieur de Kletzl read me the report. He has also communicated it to Sarim Effendi, and I understand that it was sent to the other Cabinets direct from Vienna.

Notwithstanding the moderate nature of Prince Metternich's language, and some courteous expressions used by Akif Effendi in reply to it, I have no doubt that the Turkish Cabinet by this new evidence of the opinion entertained by the Court of Austria.

I happen to know that Sarim Effendi has lately boasted of the milder language employed by the French Minister on this subject, and of a disposition, as he asserts, manifested by Prince Metternich, to insist no further upon the restoration of the Shehab family. Monsieur de Kletzl is aware of this pretension, founded, I believe, upon some mistake on the part of Akif Effendi, but he declares positively that there is no other foundation for it.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 27)

(No. 146.)

My Lord,

Buyukderé, July 7, 1842.

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires had another conference with Sarim Effendi on the 5th instant. He told me that the object of it was to present a letter from the Emperor of Russia, and he intimated his intention, which I could not but applaud, to avail himself of the opportunity to call the attention of the Porte to the late incidents in Syria connected with the retirement of Abdullah Sheik, and the dispersion of many other Chiefs of the Kharouan.

I have reason to believe that Syria was also a subject of discussion at this interview.

The imperial letter, to which Monsieur de Titow alluded in his conversation with me, is in answer, as I learn elsewhere, to one from the Sultan, which appeared on the occasion of Prince Hantchery's departure for Russia, in compliment to that interpreter, and also in acknowledgement of the satisfactory conduct maintained by the present Chargé d'Affaires and his immediate predecessor.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received August 4)

(No. 154.)

My Lord,

Buyukderé, July 17, 1842

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, copies of certain petitions against the ex-Emir Béchir, transmitted to the Porte from Syria by Mustapha Pasha, and of the ex-Emir's answer to those petitions.

The question of Mount Lebanon remains substantially in the same state as when I last addressed your Lordship; and as your Lordship has authorized me to expect instructions, which are likely to prove definitive upon that subject, by the present steam-packet due on the 24th instant, it seems in the meantime be desirable for me either to take any further step respecting it, or to add any further remarks or suggestions to those which I have already submitted to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

The reports of what occurs in Syria being conveyed to England directly from the Consuls themselves, a repetition of them by me would be a needless tax upon your Lordship's patience; and it is hardly necessary for me to add, that I have omitted no suitable opportunity of either communicating to the Turkish Government the wishes and complaints of the Maronite population, or fixing its attention upon the disappointment and injury occasioned by its measures and the conduct of its agents in Syria.

Your Lordship will not fail to observe, on perusing the ex-Emir Béchir's reply to the charges brought against him, that the letter accuses Sheik Nasser D. Hattab as specially recommended to me by General Rose, and other Druze Chiefs, of the most atrocious crimes.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure 1 in No. 85.

Petition from the Emir and Sheiks of different families, expiating the acts of tyranny and vexation committed by the Emir Béchir Shehab

Exposé de tous les actes de tyrannie et des vexations commises pendant tout le cours de sa principauté par l'Emir Béchir Chéhab, ex-devant Gouverneur de la Montagne, présenté par les Emirs et Cheiks issus des différentes familles dont on verra les signatures au bas de la déclaration qui suit le présent exposé.

DANS le commencement de sa principauté, l'Emir Béchir a fait arrêter les Cheiks Elbousker, Vakit, Seid Ahmed, Kassim, Mourad, Aali, Hekeljah, Saadettin, Kilib, Mansour, Youssoûph, Abbas, Chahin, Ahmet, Nouman, Abdulsalam et Kassim, descendants de la famille d'Ebounekit, et les a mis tous à mort. Il leur a enlevé avec la vie, tous les biens qu'ils possédaient, tels que marchandises, céréales, bestiaux, et divers autres objets, pour la valeur d'une somme de 20,000 bourses, qui, jointe à celle de 800 bourses qu'il leur a extorquée sur les produits des deux Moukatas dont ils avaient la possession, forme un total de 20,800 bourses.

Cet Emir s'est emparé, au préjudice des Cheiks issus de la famille d'Abdulmelik, d'une grande quantité de céréales, pour la valeur de 1,200 bourses, ainsi que d'une somme de 2,759 bourses qu'il leur a extorquée sur les revenus des Moukatas dont ils étaient les propriétaires. Il a extorqué également une somme de 300 bourses à la famille de Hori, originaire du village dit Rechmaya, et une autre somme de 260 bourses aux habitants de ce même village, dont le total s'élève à 4,311 bourses.

Le susdit Emir a fait arrêter ses trois cousins l'Emir Selman, l'Emir Abbas, et l'Emir Garia, et leur a fait arracher les yeux et couper les langues. Il a en outre arraché à ce dernier une somme de 60 bourses.

Indépendamment d'une multitude d'actes arbitraires et de vexations sans nombre, dont la famille de Djénlat a été l'objet, de la part de l'Emir Béchir, celui-ci a fait périr les Cheiks Nazin, Hussein, Mouhammed, Nassif Talik, Kassim Nasroullak, Mouhammed Reynan, Suian et Yousouf, et s'est emparé lors de l'exécution à St. Jean d'Acre du Cheik Béchir, de toute sa fortune, s'élevant à la somme de 12,000 bourses. Il s'est emparé en outre, au préjudice de ces malheureuses victimes, d'une somme de 2,710 qui, jointe à celle de 1,075 bourses, qu'il leur a enlevée de vive force, sur les produits de leurs Moukatas dits Chouk et Baderan, qu'ils possédaient en propriété, forme un total de 6,755. Il a fait plus, il a détourné à son avantage une somme de 617 bourses due au trésor, sur la somme de 1400 bourses, moyennant laquelle il avait affermé, par l'ordre du Gouverneur de St. Jean d'Acre, quelques-unes des terres appartenant au dit Cheik Béchir, somme qui, ajoutée à toutes celles qui viennent d'être annoncées, forme un total de 34,355 piastres.

Cet Emir a arraché par violence, aux Cheiks issus de la famille qu'il leur a enlevée sur les produits du Moukata dit Garb, forme un total de 2,700 bourses. Il a arraché également aux Cheiks descendants de la famille de Eit, une somme de 933 bourses, qui, ajoutée à celle de 1,937 bourses qu'il leur a enlevées également sur les produits de leur Moukata dit Arkoul, forme un total de 2,590 bourses.

Les Cheiks descendants de la famille de Hammaré, ont été l'objet de violences sans nombre, de la part de cet Emir, qui, entre autres, s'est emparé, à leur préjudice, d'une grande quantité de céréales, bestiaux, marchandises et divers objets, pour 12,876 bourses. Il leur a arraché également sur les produits du Moukata dit Arkoub, une somme de 344 bourses, et celle de 2,360 bourses à la famille d'Eluan. Ces sommes, jointes à la somme de 1,363 bourses arrachée à la famille d'Ataoullah, et à celle de 1,470 bourses qu'il a extorquées à la famille de Baruk, forme un total de 21,510 bourses.

Nou content de toutes ces vexations il a fait couper la tête à Mahmoud Yousouf, Hétari Chih, Mouhammed Seid Ahmed, et Esmad Djénlat, propriétaires des Moukatas ci-haut énoncés.

L'Emir précité s'est emparé de tous les biens qui constituaient la fortune de la famille de Beklan, montant à la somme de 8,000 bourses, après qu'il lui avait extorqué à trois reprises une somme de 1,400 bourses sur les produits du Moukata dit Garb, ce qui, joint à la somme ci-haut énoncée, forme un total de 9,400 bourses.

Cet Emir a également exercé une multitude de vexations envers les Cheiks Hammariyé qui habitent les provinces de Djénlat et de Tiroin. Il a extorqué à ces Cheiks une somme de 8,500 bourses, et fait décapiter les Cheiks Hussein, Hammaré, et Ebulwassar.

Les habitants du Moukata dit Metin, ont été l'objet de vexations de mille genres, de la part de cet Emir, qui leur a arraché sous divers prétextes une somme de 5,016 bourses.

Il a fait décapiter et mis à mort, vingt-quatre individus, dont voici les noms : C. Hammaré, Kassim Hammaré, El. Hammaré, Hussein Selman, et son fils Faria, Mouhammed Béchir, son frère Selman Béchir Selman Aleran son frère, Suleyman Abdul Selam, Kassim Sadi, Mouhammed Yurivé, son oncle Boukassim, Hassan fils d'Ah Ahmed, Hussein fils d'Ah Ahmed, Elou Hussein, Hassan Faria, Mouhammed Nassah, Hussein fils de Bouhusein Hassan, Selman Adman, Hassan Hamida, Yussuf fils de Kassim Béchir, Ah fils de Kassim Béchir, et Yousouf fils d'Ah.

L'Emir Béchir qui avait été pendant très long temps l'objet d'une multitude de faveurs de toute espèce de la part d'Emir Yousouf Béchir, autrefois Gouverneur de la Montagne, a conçu et réalisé le coupable projet de se faire nommer Gouverneur de la Montagne, en faisant destituer ses enfans qui, à sa mort, avaient été appelés à lui succéder. Arrivé au pouvoir, il s'est emparé de leur fortune montant à la somme de 19,284 bourses, et a poussé l'atrocité jusqu'à leur faire arracher les yeux et les laisser mourir faute de nourriture.

* Sic in Orig.

Cet Emir a extorqué à trois reprises aux Emirs issus de la famille de Yellemah, une somme de 800 bourses, jointe à celle de 80 bourses qu'il a enlevée à leurs agents d'affaires descendants de la famille de Elhadj Hassan, forme un total de 880 bourses.

Par suite de la décapitation du Cheik Djirdjissbas, cet Emir s'est emparé par violence de toutes les céréales appartenant aux Cheiks originaires du Mont Kesreban et membres de la famille de Nazin, sous prétexte que ceux-ci continuaient à lui porter de l'intérêt. Plus tard, il leur a imputé à crime s'être attachés à la cause de Cheik Béchir Djénlat, et leur a arraché, sous cette imputation, une somme de 17,000 bourses.

Le susdit Emir a gravé d'impôts considérables les céréales que possédaient les Cheiks Zairyé, descendants de la famille de Dessur. Ceux-ci en ont été privés, et le dit Emir a fait enlever arbitrairement une partie considérable pour la valeur de 250 bourses.

Deux individus descendants de la famille de Chéhab ont un jour attaqué un autre individu nommé Hassan Djeh el Eshkar, originaire du village, et l'ont tué par la famille d'Elhadj et l'ont enlevé la vie.

Le dit Emir a fait enlever arbitrairement les céréales appartenant aux Cheiks de la famille de Chéhab, d'une grande quantité de céréales pour la valeur de 250 bourses.

Cet Emir a fait enlever arbitrairement à Cheik Ayiz, descendant de la famille de Djeh, d'une somme de 87 bourses.

Total général des sommes extorquées par l'Emir Béchir, 141,668 bourses.

| | |
|--|----|
| Nombre des Emirs et des Cheiks auxquels l'Emir Béchir a fait arracher les yeux et couper les langues | 6 |
| Celui des Emirs auxquels il a ôté la vie par décapitation | 61 |
| par la corde | 1 |
| par le gibet | 1 |
| par le feu | 1 |

Total 70

Les crimes énoncés dans l'exposé ci-dessus constituent les principaux traits de l'arbitraire et de l'oppression exercés par l'Emir Béchir et toutes ses créatures; il ne serait guère facile d'énumérer les abus de pouvoir dont le peuple du Liban a souffert de la part de cet Emir. Les vexations que celui-ci a exercées à l'égard de ce peuple sont tellement nombreuses, qu'il était permis à chaque individu d'exposer ses griefs contre lui et d'en réclamer justice, cela produirait le même effet que celui du jour du dernier jugement; et certes dans toute l'étendue du Mont Liban, il ne se trouverait pas une seule âme en état de se dire avoir été invulnérable aux atteintes de sa main de fer.

Quelques-uns de ces griefs, de la part de l'Emir Béchir, n'en est pas moins évident que cet homme ayant été pendant tout le cours de son gouvernement, dépositaire d'un pouvoir absolu, toute réclamation contre lui est restée sans résultat.

Indépendamment de cela, l'autorité que cet Emir exerçait sur la Montagne n'ayant jamais été partagée par quelque autre personne, force nous a été de supporter patiemment toutes les horreurs qu'il nous a infligées à notre préjudice, pendant un si grand nombre d'années, sans que personne eût jamais osé élever la voix contre lui.

Maintenant que cet Emir n'est plus à notre tête et que le gouvernement du Liban lui est enlevé, nous considérons notre délivrance de sa main de fer, sous laquelle il nous a fait gémir pendant si longtemps, comme une faveur divine à notre égard, et nous ne saurions trop en louer Dieu.

Grâce à l'Empire Ottoman, l'Administration qui gouverne en ce moment la Montagne, est la seule propre à rendre à ses habitants la paix et le bonheur. Déjà la violence et l'arbitraire ont été remplacés par la justice et l'équité, et nous nous considérons comme étant nouvellement venus au monde et rendus à la lumière d'épaisses ténèbres dont nous avons été pendant si longtemps enveloppés.

Dans cette position, si satisfaisante à tant d'égards, nous n'avons

qu'un seul vœu à adresser au ciel c'est qu'il lui plaise de nous conserver à jamais le système de gouvernement qui veut de nous être donné par la Sublime Porte, et qui est le seul avantageux et le seul de nature à produire chez tous les plus heureux résultats.

Et, en effet, la position actuelle de la Montagne ne laisse rien à désirer sous le rapport de l'en-être et de la tranquillité, et nous ne saurions trop nous louer de tant d'effets salutaires que ce système y a déjà produits, et produira encore.

La Sublime Porte ne se refuse jamais, nous en sommes persuadés, à écouter favorablement la voix des peuples quels qu'ils puissent être. Dans cette conviction, et redoutant la plus affreuse des misères, nous prenons la liberté de lui soumettre le vœu de l'émir. 1. Qu'elle daigne continuer à nous faire gouverner par le système actuellement en vigueur dans la Montagne, qui est le seul bon et le seul capable d'y rétablir la paix et le bon ordre. 2. Qu'elle veuille bien par compassion pour notre malheureuse position, engager l'Emir Béchir à restituer tout ce qu'il nous a extorqué ainsi qu'on a pu le voir dans l'exposé ci-dessus.

L'Emir Béchir ne manquera pas, nous en sommes sûrs, d'avoir recours aux dénégations et d'user de tous les moyens en son pouvoir pour se disculper des crimes dont il est accusé.

Dans ces cas là, nous prions la Sublime Porte d'engager l'Emir Béchir à nous envoyer un délégué sa part, auquel nous sommes en mesure de démontrer par des preuves incontestables, l'exactitude de tout ce que nous venons d'avancer.

Quant aux crimes d'assassinats de divers genres qu'il a commis sur la personne de tant de malheureux humains c'est au bon Dieu qu'est le juste Vengeur, que nous laissons le soin de le faire venger par un châtiment exemplaire.

(Signés)

Les Emirs de la famille Reslan.

Les familles Emir Abdulmelik

Djénlat.

Ebouneket.

Rhouk.

Hamayé.

Les Cheiks des districts de Djébil et de Tiroun

Les familles Hammariyé

Iche

Ebonelevan.

Atallah

Abdulahmed

Les Cheiks du district de Metin.

Les Cheiks et habitants du district de Baderan

Les familles Hazan.

Mezma.

Mahab

Dahir

Djebe.

Kabrail Ressoul.

Suleyman Daddah.

Inclosure 2 in No. 85.

Emir Béchir Shehab to the Grand Vizier, in answer to the accusations brought against him.

Monseigneur,

J'ai reçu la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser et à laquelle étaient jointes deux pétitions envoyées par quelques Emirs et Cheiks du Liban. Dans ces pétitions se reviennent certains droits et émettent certaines assertions pour lesquelles le Gouvernement de Sa

Hautesse veut bien m'ordonner d'envoyer sur les lieux un fondé de pouvoirs pour tranquiliser et faire taire ces chefs de la Montagne. J'ai compris tout cela et lu avec la plus grande attention les deux pièces dont il est question. J'ai examiné aussi les prétentions qui y sont énoncées, mais sans y rien trouver qui s'accordât avec la vérité des faits. Il y a deux choses fausses :—

La première, que, durant mon administration, le Liban a été complètement ruiné ;

La seconde, que j'ai frauduleusement pris de grandes sommes d'argent et fait mourir des hommes sans raison, et injustement.

La première de ces accusations, c'est-à-dire que le Liban a été complètement ruiné, est une pure calomnie, une insulte, et un mensonge évident. Les faits, qui sont connus de tout le monde, démontrent la fausseté de cette accusation, et ce que les faits constatent n'a besoin d'aucune preuve. J'ai gouverné le Liban pendant cinquante ans. Tous les habitants de la Syrie connaissent, les uns par oui-dire, les autres pour l'avoir vu eux-mêmes, l'état des provinces de la Montagne avant mon administration, et ils connaissent aussi le changement qui s'y est opéré ensuite. On ne pourra plus douter la vérité de ce que j'avance, si l'on veut bien interroger les villes célèbres qui entourent le Liban, telles que Alep, Damas, et tant d'autres. Si j'eusse été injuste et cruel, comme on le dit, le Liban ne serait pas devenu, sous mon gouvernement, ce jardin si beau et si fertile au milieu des déserts, sa régénération, sa prospérité n'auraient pas excité l'envie et la jalousie de toutes les provinces ; car, par la grâce de Dieu et par l'influence de la Sublime Porte, cette Montagne qui était déserte, ruinée, et le repaire des voleurs et des assassins, j'en ai fait un lieu de sécurité et l'asile de la justice. L'histoire du Liban, qui que le témoignent en ma faveur dans l'univers entier ; les grands Pachas qui étaient envoyés dans ces pays pour gouverner Alep et Damas, rendent le même témoignage. Qu'on les interroge, et l'on saura par eux le système que je suivais dans le gouvernement du Liban ; quelques uns de ces pachas fonctionnaires se trouvant aujourd'hui à Constantinople d'autres dans les environs de cette capitale, et ils pourront tous attester ce qu'ils savent. Il est vrai que j'empêchais le puissant et l'injuste de nuire au faible ; le grand d'opprimer le petit. Et il est possible que les grands du Liban, dont je contrariais ainsi les penchans naturels, m'accusent de cruauté et d'injustice pour les avoir empêché de semer la discorde et de commettre des abus. Voici une preuve incontestable de ce que j'avance : je fus déposé trois fois pendant ces cinquante-cinq ans, et à peine m'éloignais-je d'eux pour me transporter sur d'autres points, qu'ils s'attaquaient les uns les autres et commettaient vols, assassinats, rapines honteuses ; les funestes effets de leur déplorable conduite se faisaient sentir jusques dans les villes et les provinces environnantes. La même chose a eu lieu dernièrement après mon départ du Liban, les plus grandes atrocités ont été commises par eux. Numan Djimblat et son frère ont massacré Nedjme el Halil, fils de leur oncle paternel ; Mahmoud Falhouk a tué son frère Ismail ; Hammoud Naked et son cousin Nasif ont chassé violemment leur parent Ayad, et se sont emparés de ses biens et de ses revenus. Mille autres injustices semblables ont eu lieu, jusqu'à la funeste collision qui a éclaté entre les Druzes et les Chrétiens, collision qui aurait entraîné la dévastation complète de ces contrées, et aurait eu pour les peuples voisins les plus graves conséquences. Sans sa bienveillante sollicitude, la Sublime Porte n'eût aussitôt interposé son autorité pour éteindre ces dissensions.

Quant aux autres assertions des Emirs et Cheiks du Liban, elles sont toutes fausses, les événements qui ont eu lieu en prouvent le peu de fondement, et une grande partie des faits qu'ils racontent ont eu lieu parmi eux-mêmes et par leur propre faute. Aussi ai-je été grandement surpris de l'audace qu'ils ont eue, d'avancer et d'écrire même de semblables choses : quelques unes des signatures que portent les deux pétitions sont celles de personnes méprisables, d'autres signatures et d'autres cachets ne sont pas les véritables signatures et cachets des personnes qu'elles semblent indiquer ; quelques personnes aussi portent, dans ces signatures, un nom qui n'est pas le leur. Il en est enfin d'autres à qui l'on attribue

des assertions énoncées dans les deux pétitions, et dont les signatures ne s'y trouvent pas.

Les choses étant ainsi, je prends la liberté de présenter cette humble pétition pour demander que mes accusateurs viennent dans cette capitale; je plaiderai ma cause contre eux devant ce tribunal équitable, et la Sublime Porte connaîtra alors leurs faussetés et leurs mensonges. Tout sera ensuite soumis au jugement et à la décision de qui nous commande.

Inclosure 3 in No. 85.

Letter from the Maronites to the Primates of Mount Lebanon.

IL est venu à notre connaissance, que, par le canal d'un agent de son Excellence le Seraskir Pacha, vous avez présenté à la Sublime Porte, une requête revêtue de vos cachets, ayant pour but de déclarer en votre nom et au nom de votre tribu, que, contens de l'administration de son Excellence Omar Pacha, vous ne voulez pas que quelqu'un de la famille Chéhab, ou quelque autre personne, soit Druse ou Chrétien, pût désormais être appelé au gouvernement de la Montagne. Vous y avez déclaré, en outre, que les requêtes que nous avons présentées, il y a quelque temps, à la Sublime Porte, étaient remplies de faussetés, et que le seraient toutes celles que nous aurions à lui présenter par la suite.

Nous, descendants de la tribu des Maronites, vous prions par la présente de nous dire, par ce nous vous a autorisé à présenter une pareille requête en notre nom? ce pouvoir d'agir en notre lieu et place, qui vous l'a donné? et comment enfin, avez-vous pu savoir que nos requêtes étaient remplies de faussetés?

Nous sommes tous de fidèles sujets de l'Empire Ottoman, prêts à obéir à tous les ordres qu'il vous plaira de nous donner, et nous sommes trop dévoués à la Sublime Porte, pour oser lui présenter des requêtes de ce genre là.

Inclosure 4 in No. 85.

Answer from the Primates of Mount Lebanon to the Maronites.

LA requête dont vous nous parlez dans votre lettre, nous l'avons en effet adressée à la Sublime Porte, en notre nom et au nom de votre tribu, en y apposant nos cachets, sur l'invitation d'un agent de son Excellence le Seraskir Pacha. Ce que vous nous dites à ce sujet n'est que trop vrai.

Néanmoins, nous devons ne point vous laisser ignorer, que nous n'avons pas manqué de faire observer à qui de droit, que votre tribu n'avait pas connaissance de cette démarche de notre part, et que nous n'étions pas munis de pouvoir nécessaire pour agir en votre nom. Aussi n'est-ce que sur l'ordre de son Excellence le Seraskir Pacha qu'il nous a fallu mettre nos signatures au bas de la requête dont il est question; ordre qui nous a été transmis par ce même agent, et auquel nous n'avons fait, comme vous le voyez, que nous soumettre.

Quant à ce que vous nous dites au sujet des faussetés dont auraient été remplies vos requêtes, ce fait nous est complètement inconnu; et c'est pour vous prévenir qu'en agissant en votre nom nous n'avons fait qu'obéir à l'ordre de son Excellence le Seraskir Pacha, que nous nous empressons de vous adresser la présente lettre, en réponse à celle que nous venons de recevoir de votre part.

No. 86.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 165.)

My Lord,

Buyukderé, August 16, 1842

THE instructions respecting Mount Lebanon, contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 93 shall be carried into effect to the best of my humble ability, and I am inclined to think, though I cannot pledge myself to the correctness of the impression, that the Porte is already prepared to acquiesce in the views of Her Majesty's Government, especially with respect to the removal of the Albanian troops from Syria, or at least from the Christian parts of that province. I have communicated with each of my colleagues upon the subject, and I am happy to find that they are all quite ready to act in concert with me for the execution of your Lordship's instructions. Neither the French Minister, nor the Russian and Prussian Charges d'Affaires have yet received the additional instructions of their respective Courts, but they are equally willing to proceed at once in the prosecution of the common object, such as it is indicated in your Lordship's despatch.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs will, in all probability, refer us to the approaching return of Selim Bey, who is expected to reach Constantinople in a few days. Time will, I think, be gained by putting the Porte in possession of our suggestions before his arrival.

Meanwhile, a new set of petitions, affirmed to be signed or sealed by more than 11,000 inhabitants of the Mountain, has been presented to the Porte in favour of a Christian Governor, and the re-establishment in that capacity of some individual member of the Shehab family.

That difficulties of the nature described by your Lordship, are to be encountered in the course of our efforts to settle the affairs of Mount Lebanon upon the proposed principle, is unquestionable; but I trust that it will not be found impossible to overcome them, if once the Porte can be persuaded to enter with us into a fair and friendly consideration of the subject.

I am no less surprized than your Lordship at the obstinacy, and I may justly add, the insincerity and deceit, with which the Porte has persisted in employing Albanians for the intimidation of the Christians of Mount Lebanon. The idea originated, I believe, with the Grand Vizier, and the double motive of removing them from their own province, and employing them in mountain warfare, to which they are particularly accustomed, was probably the cause of its adoption. I have spared no pains to hasten their recall, and have more than once received a promise that my representations should be complied with.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 87.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 175.)

My Lord,

Buyukderé, August 26, 1842

I HAVE agreed with my colleagues as to the most advisable mode of carrying into effect your Lordship's instructions on the subject of Mount Lebanon. I should have done so with less delay, if Baron de Bourqueney had not expressed a wish to wait for his own instructions, and the delay is, in fact, of little consequence, as the Porte will certainly withhold her opinion until the return of Selim Bey, who is not expected from Syria for several days.

The Prussian Charge d'Affaires and Monsieur de Titow are still without fresh instructions, but each of them has declared his readiness to act in

concert with me. The French Minister and the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires have received, from their respective Courts, instructions similar to mine.

We have met together and talked over the different points of the proposed settlement, in order to secure a thorough uniformity of action, and we intend to propose the plan traced out by your Lordship in the form of an instruction addressed to our respective interpreters, and communicated separately by them, at short intervals of time, to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Copies of these instructions will be interchanged confidentially, but the only one which I have a chance of submitting to your Lordship by the present opportunity is my own, and a copy of it is herewith inclosed.

Your Lordship will observe, that I have again, upon this occasion, urged the necessity of recalling the Albanian troops from Syria. My colleagues agreed with me in the expediency of combining this demand with our proposal for the settlement of Affairs in Mount Lebanon. I was happy to learn, in the course of our conversation, that Sarim Effendi had repeated to the French Minister the assurance, which he had given to me, that 2,500 of the Albanians had already been ordered to proceed elsewhere.

I should partake of your Lordship's surprise, at the disappointment which we have frequently experienced on this subject, if I had not perceived so many other proofs of the pertinacity with which the Grand Vizier adheres to his own peculiar system of policy, and of the ingenuity which he displays in counteracting the wiser and more benevolent intentions of his Sovereign. It is but fair, however, to add, that there would be little wisdom in keeping the Albanians at home, and that they are well adapted by their habits, to the perils and difficulties of mountain warfare.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 87

Sir Stratford Canning to M. Pisan.

Monsieur,

Beyrout, 20 d'Avril, 1842

LE temps qui s'est écoulé depuis le 27 Mai, jour de la Conférence tenue entre les Ministres de la Porte et les Représentans des Cinq Puissances relativement aux affaires de la Syrie, n'a rien fait perdre du grand intérêt qui s'y rattache. J'ai mis sous les yeux du Gouvernement le rapport de tout ce qui s'est passé dans cette occasion. Je me suis fait un devoir de rendre justice aux informations et aux raisonnemens des Ministres Turcs. J'ai exposé franchement les graves difficultés qui entourent et qui entourent encore la question du Mont Liban.

La conséquence en est que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté a porté son attention sur les diverses parties de cette question avec la connaissance de tout ce qui était nécessaire pour en former un jugement définitif. Il s'en suit de plus, que les instructions dont je viens d'être muni, expriment la pensée toute entière de ma Cour, et méritent à ce titre et à celui de la sage bienveillance qui les distingue, la considération spéciale du Conseil Ottoman.

Il appartient aux autres Représentans de faire savoir à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères l'avis de leurs Cours respectives, basé, sans aucun doute, sur les mêmes connaissances, ainsi que sur le même désir de contribuer au bien-être de cet Empire. Il est à présumer que la Porte reconnaîtra dans leurs communications, comme dans la mienne, les égards dus à son indépendance, et l'emprunte d'une sincère conviction.

On dirait, en effet, que toutes les opinions se réunissent à cet égard autour d'un centre commun; mais, quoiqu'il en soit, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté ne désire que le maintien de l'autorité légitime du Sultan, de manière à garantir au Mont Liban la jouissance d'une tranquillité permanente, et d'une bonne administration fondée dans ses anciens privilèges. Ce desir lui est inspiré moins par les sympathies de la religion et de l'humanité, que par le respect que tout Gouvernement doit à ses propres engagements, et par

l'intérêt que réclame de lui à juste titre un pays, dont le sort actuel pèse en grande partie sur sa responsabilité. Malgré qu'on n'y a pas eu recours aux armes depuis quelques mois, le mécontentement général qui règne dans la Montagne, a besoin d'être apaisé par d'autres moyens que la force. Quand même on perdrait de vue les pétitions qui se déclarent de jour en jour plus franchement contre l'état actuel des choses, serait-il possible de s'aveugler sur l'effet que doivent nécessairement produire les actes d'un arbitraire violent, dont il n'y a que trop d'exemples? corrompre ou intimider les notables, éloigner ou imputer les chefs, acquiescer à la spoliation des biens, sont-ils les vrais moyens de gagner les cœurs et de concilier les esprits?

Pour fermer tant de blessures, pour calmer tant d'agitations, et faire oublier un passé désastreux, il faut que la justice reprenne sa vigueur, que l'ordre soit établi sur des bases solides, que l'autorité soit mise en harmonie avec les mœurs, les besoins, et les traditions du pays, que le peuple enfin, détourné de l'influence étrangère, puisse reposer de bon cœur à l'ombre de la protection du souverain.

Il s'agit donc de trouver quelque combinaison propre à effectuer ces divers objets, sans toutefois s'abuser sur les changemens nécessaires, et une série de circonstances, déplorable à la vérité, mais qui est impossible maintenant d'effacer. Les événements d'une pareille combinaison se présentent assez facilement à la vue. Deux peuples, pour la plupart séparés, partagent le Mont Liban. L'intérêt souverain du pays appartient de droit au Sultan. Que cette autorité soit représentée par un Vizir, surintendant de tout le pays et revêtu des pouvoirs nécessaires pour en maintenir la paix. Que l'administration locale soit confiée à deux individus nommés par l'autorité suprême et appelés respectivement à gérer les affaires de son district, un Druse pour les Druses, et un Chrétien pour les Chrétiens. Que chacun de ces chefs soit tenu à résider au milieu de la population dont il doit être responsable, tandis que la dépositaire du pouvoir suprême sera établi parmi ses coreligionnaires dans le voisinage immédiat de la Montagne. Par ce moyen la jouissance des anciennes franchises sera tempérée par une surveillance salutaire; l'irritation mutuelle n'aura plus d'aliment, l'administration sera exercée sans gêne, l'autorité se maintiendra sans danger.

Il faut avouer que l'exécution de ce plan pourrait bien rencontrer quelques difficultés de détail. Il existe par exemple tel village où les Druses et les Maronites se trouvent entremêlés. C'est là peut-être l'obstacle le plus sérieux, qui, néanmoins, ne doit pas arrêter l'adoption d'une mesure sous d'autres rapports satisfaisante; les moyens de le surmonter ne manquent pas.

Encore faut-il avouer que beaucoup dépend du choix des individus. Pour les peuples de la Montagne, le prestige qui leur Procure une union avec des qualités personnelles le prestige qui dérive du sang, et d'un nom illustré par les traditions de famille. À celui qui doit représenter plus immédiatement l'autorité de son Souverain il faut une réputation pour la justice, la modération et la fermeté. Du Vizir, comme des Princes, il est essentiel que les antécédens ne rappellent ni les souffrances ni les crimes des troubles passés.

Mais, par-dessus tout, il importe que le Conseil Ottoman se hâte de manifester la bienveillance qui doit présider à l'avenir du Mont Liban par le prompt éloignement de la Syrie de ces bandes Albanaïses qui n'ont que trop longtemps jeté l'épouvante parmi les habitans paisibles de la Montagne, indignés de leur présence et dégoûtés par leurs excès.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté saura gré à la Porte de ce qu'elle a déjà donné une autre destination à la moitié de ces troupes, mais il n'aura pas le sentiment d'avoir accompli son devoir, jusqu'à ce qu'un pareil fléau ne soit entièrement retiré du pays. Les Puissances Chrétiennes malgré toute la considération qu'elles ont vouée à la Porte, ne sauraient acquiescer à un abus accompagné de tant de mal facile à écarter.

Veuillez, Monsieur, ce que je vous invite à communiquer de ma part à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, et je vous autorise à lui en remettre une copie de cette instruction. Vous voudrez bien observer en même temps à son Excellence, que je nourris l'espoir d'apprendre un moment plus tôt la décision de la Porte. Je n'ai pas oublié que le retour de Selim Bey d'après la déclaration de son Excellence, devait précéder l'adoption d'un avis définitif sur ce sujet; mais à moins que cet émissaire ne soit attendu inévitablement à

Constantinople, il me semble que la lenteur qui a accompagné ses mouvements doit servir de motif pour ne pas retarder davantage une communication aussi intéressante aux Cours Alliées.

Je suis, &c.,
(Signé) S. CANNING.

No. 88.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 182.)

My Lord,

Buyukderé, August 30, 1842

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of M. Pisan's report of the language held by the H. Effendi on receiving a communication of my instruction respecting the affairs of Mount Lebanon.

I also transmit herewith an amended copy of that instruction. The return of Selim Bey, which took place after I had written it, and before it was communicated to Sarim Effendi, has made it advisable to strike out a part of the closing paragraph.

I have received copies of the instructions presented by my Colleagues, but, as there is not sufficient time to have them transcribed before the departure of the post, I must take the liberty of reserving them for another opportunity. I have no doubt of their being in substance the same in effect as my own.

I am informed that Selim Bey, in private, holds a language in keeping with that of the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha, as if he was persuaded that the petitions forwarded by that Pasha declare the real wishes of the Maronite population. The accounts which I receive from Colonel Rose continue, on the contrary, to affirm that the great majority of signatures is in favour of a Christian administration in the Mountain.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 88

M. Pisan to Sir Stratford Canning.

Excellence,

Pera, ce 29 Août, 1842.

CONFORMEMENT à vos ordres, j'ai communiqué à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères les instructions que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date du 26 courant.

Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères m'a fait la réponse suivante :

"La Porte a envoyé des instructions à Selim Bey en conséquence de ce qui s'était passé dans la conférence du 27 Mai dernier. Selim Bey est de retour depuis hier; mais nous n'avons pas encore lu ni les dépêches dont il est porteur, ni son propre rapport. Après que nous aurons pris connaissance de leur contenu, nous nous entendrons avec MM. les Représentans des Cinq Puissances pour faire ce qui sera jugé nécessaire. Je vous prie de porter cette réponse à la connaissance de son Excellence Sir Stratford Canning, avec bien des complimens de ma part."

J'ai l'honneur, &c.,
(Signé) FRED. PISANI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 88.

Sir Stratford Canning to M. Pisan.

Monsieur,

Buyukderé, 26 Août, 1842

LE temps qui s'est écoulé depuis le 27 Mai, jour de la Conférence tenue entre les Ministres de la Porte et les Représentans des Cinq Puissances relativement aux affaires de la Syrie, n'a rien fait perdre du grand intérêt qui s'y rattache. J'ai mis sous les yeux du Gouvernement le rapport de tout ce qui s'est passé dans cette occasion. Je me suis fait un devoir de rendre justice aux informations et aux raisonnemens des Ministres Ottomans. J'ai exposé franchement les graves difficultés qui entouraient et qui entourent encore la question du Mont Liban.

La conséquence en est, que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté a porté son attention sur les diverses parties de cette question avec la connaissance de tout ce qui était nécessaire pour en former un jugement définitif. Je sais de plus, que les instructions dont je viens d'être muni, expriment la pensée toute entière de ma Cour, et méritent, à ce titre et à celui de la sage bienveillance qui les distingue, la considération spéciale du Conseil Ottoman.

Il appartient aux autres Représentans de faire savoir à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, l'avis de leurs Cours respectives, basé, sans aucun doute, sur les mêmes connaissances ainsi que sur le même désir de contribuer au bien-être de cet Empire. Il est à présumer que la Porte reconnaîtra dans leurs communications, comme dans la mienne, les égards dus à son indépendance, et l'empreinte d'une sincère conviction.

On dirait, en effet, que toutes les opinions se réunissent à cet égard autour d'un centre commun. Mais, quoiqu'il en soit, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté ne désire que le maintien de l'autorité légitime du Sultan de manière à garantir au Mont Liban la jouissance d'une tranquillité permanente, et d'une bonne administration fondée dans ses anciens privilèges. Ce désir lui est inspiré moins par les sympathies de la religion et de l'humanité, que par le respect que tout Gouvernement doit à ses propres engagements, et par l'intérêt que réclame de lui à juste titre un pays dont le sort actuel pèse en grande partie sur sa responsabilité. Malgré qu'on n'y a pas eu recours aux armes depuis quelques mois, le mécontentement général qui règne dans la Montagne a besoin d'être apaisé par d'autres moyens que la force. Quand même on perdrait de vue les pétitions qui se déclarent de jour en jour plus franchement contre l'état actuel des choses, serait-il possible de s'aveugler sur l'effet que doivent nécessairement produire les actes d'un arbitraire violent, dont il a vu que trop d'évidences? Corrompre ou intimider les notables, éloigner ou emprisonner les chefs, sembler acquiescer à la spoliation des biens, sont-ils les vrais moyens de gagner les cœurs et de concilier les esprits?

Pour fermer tant de blessures, pour calmer tant d'inquiétudes, et faire oublier un passé désastreux, il faut que la justice reprenne sa vigueur, que l'ordre soit établi sur des bases solides, que l'autorité soit mise en harmonie avec les mœurs, les besoins et les traditions du pays, que le peuple, enfin, détourné de l'influence étrangère, puisse repaître de bonne foi à l'ombre de la protection du Souverain.

Il s'agit donc de trouver quelque combinaison propre à effectuer ces divers objets, sans toutefois s'abuser sur les changemens nécessités par une série de circonstances, déplorables à la vérité, mais qu'il est impossible maintenant d'effacer. Les élémens d'une pareille combinaison se présentent à la vue. Deux peuples, pour la plupart séparés, partagent le Mont Liban. L'autorité souveraine du pays appartient de droit au Sultan. Que cette autorité soit représentée par un Vizir, surintendant de tout le pays, et revêtu des pouvoirs nécessaires pour en maintenir la paix. Que l'administration locale soit confiée à deux individus, nommés par l'autorité suprême, et appelés respectivement à gérer les affaires de son district, un Druse pour les Druses, et un Chrétien pour les Chrétiens. Que chacun de ces chefs soit tenu à résider au milieu de la population dont il doit être responsable, tandis que le dépositaire du pouvoir suprême sera établi parmi ses coreligionnaires dans le voisinage immédiat de la Montagne. Par ce moyen la jouissance des anciennes franchises sera tempérée par une surveillance salutaire, l'imitation mutuelle

n'aura plus d'aliment, l'administration sera exercée sans gêne, l'autorité se maintiendra sans danger.

Il faut avouer que l'exécution de ce plan pourrait bien rencontrer quelques difficultés de détail. Il existe, par exemple, tel village où les Druses et les Maronites se trouvent entremêlés. C'est là peut-être l'obstacle le plus sérieux, qui, néanmoins, ne doit pas arrêter l'adoption d'une mesure sous d'autres rapports satisfaisants. Les moyens de le surmonter ne manquent pas.

Encore faut-il avouer que beaucoup dépend du choix des individus. Pour les peuplades de la Montagne il importe que leurs Princes réunissent avec des qualités personnelles, le prestige qui dérive du sang et d'un nom illustré par les traditions de famille. A celui qui doit représenter plus immédiatement l'autorité de son Souverain, il faut une réputation pour la justice, la modération et la fermeté. Pour ce qui regarde également le Vizir et les Princes, il est essentiel que leurs antécédents ne rappellent ni les souffrances ni les crimes des troubles passés.

Mais, par-dessus tout, il importe que le Conseil Ottoman ne hâte de manifester la bienveillance qui doit présider à l'avenir du Mont Liban, par le prompt envoi d'un corps de la Symplicité des troupes Albanaises, qui trop longtemps ont été stationnées dans les montagnes de la Montagne, menaçant de leur présence, et dégoûtés par leurs excès. Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté saura gré à la Sublime Porte de ce qu'elle a déjà donné une autre destination à la moitié de ces troupes; mais il n'aura pas le sentiment d'avoir accompli son devoir, jusqu'à ce qu'un pareil fléau ne soit entièrement returé du pays. Les Puissances Chrétiennes, malgré toute la considération qu'elles ont vouée à la Porte, ne sauraient acquiescer à un abus accompagné de tant de mal facile à écarter.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur, laassurance de ma part à votre Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et je vous autorise à lui remettre une copie de cette instruction, en ajoutant que j'espère d'apprendre à tout moment la décision de la Porte.

Je suis, &c.,
(Signé) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 89

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 186)

My Lord,

Buyukderé, September 8, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, the accompanying copies of the several instructions addressed by each of my colleagues to their respective interpreters at the Porte, for the purpose of recommending that arrangement of the affairs of Mount Lebanon which, agreeably to your Lordship's directions, I communicated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, at the same time and in the same form.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure 1 in No. 89.

Instruction from the Baron de Stürmer to M. de Steinl.

28 Août, 1842.

VOUS voudrez bien vous rendre chez son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et vous acquitter envers lui du message suivant.

La Sublime Porte connaît les motifs bienveillants et désintéressés qui déterminent la Cour Impériale d'Autriche, de même que ses Alliés, à lui faire connaître sa manière de voir sur la question du Mont Liban avec cette franchise que lui imposent l'amitié sincère et l'estime élevée envers l'Empire Ottoman et le vif intérêt qu'elle voue à tout ce qui peut contribuer au raffermissement de l'ordre et de la tranquillité dans cet Empire.

La Cour Impériale d'Autriche, pénétrée comme elle l'est de l'urgente nécessité de mettre un terme à l'état d'inquiétude et d'irritation qui afflige les habitants du Liban, et mûe en même temps par le désir de faciliter à la Sublime Porte la solution de cette question, a voulu lui suggérer une combinaison propre à mettre entièrement à couvert les droits de souveraineté de Sa Hauteur le Sultan, et à satisfaire aux exigences qui dérivent des traditions, des mœurs et des localités. Voici, en conséquence, le mode de Gouvernement qu'elle est tombée d'accord avec ses Alliés de conseiller à la Sublime Porte d'établir dans la Montagne.

Les Maronites seraient placés, ainsi qu'ils ont été précédemment, sous l'administration immédiate d'un Prince Chrétien choisi dans le sein de la nation, et dans une famille qui, par sa position, ses antécédents, et les sympathies des administrés, se trouverait en mesure d'exercer le pouvoir avec succès et de maintenir dans la partie Chrétienne de la Montagne le bon ordre et la sécurité, avec l'appui et le soutien des Puissances. Les Druses seraient placés de même sous un Chef de leur nation, et un délégué de la Sublime Porte dont la résidence serait fixée dans le voisinage du Liban, (Beyrouth semblerait être à tous égards le lieu le plus propre à cet effet,) aurait à surveiller les Princes Maronite et Druse, et à remplir les fonctions d'arbitre en cas de dissidence entre eux.

Tel est le mode de Gouvernement que la Cour Impériale, après de mûres et sérieuses réflexions, a trouvé le plus convenable pour satisfaire toutes les parties intéressées; et ce mode a été jugé de même par les autres Cabinets.

Je n'appuierai point sur l'inconvénient qu'il aurait à investir Omar Pachà de l'autorité suprême dans le Liban; il est évident pour ceux qui veulent bien se rappeler les antécédents de ce fonctionnaire et les plaintes auxquelles il a donné lieu. La pénétration des Ministres du Divan leur aura sûrement déjà suggéré ce que je pourrais leur dire à ce sujet.

En m'acquittant par la présente communication, des ordres que je viens de recevoir de mon Auguste Cour, je dois exprimer à la Sublime Porte, en vertu de cette entière uniformité d'intérêts qui unit si étroitement les deux empires, combien la Cour Impériale désire voir la question du Liban résolue le plus tôt possible de la manière susindiquée, la seule propre à son avis à prévenir les complications et les dangers qui devraient naître tôt ou tard, et qui pourraient entraîner des conséquences aussi regrettables pour la Sublime Porte que pour les Puissances ses amies.

Je ne saurais terminer la présente instruction sans vous inviter, Monsieur, à appeler l'attention la plus sérieuse de M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères sur les graves inconvénients qui résultent de la présence des troupes Albanaises en Syrie. Son Excellence a bien voulu m'annoncer en dernier lieu, que la Sublime Porte avait donné des ordres pour qu'une partie de cette milice indisciplinée en fût retirée. Je prends acte de cette communication, et me plais à espérer que la Sublime Porte complètera l'œuvre, nous peu, en ordonnant le départ des Albanais qui restent encore en Syrie et que nous verrons avec plaisir remplacés par des troupes régulières.

Vous remettrez à son Excellence Sarim Effendi copie de la présente instruction.

Inclosure 2 in No. 89

Instruction from M. de Tülow to Prince Handjery.

Buyukderé, le 13 Août, 1842

LA Sublime Porte est déjà informée de l'intérêt sincère que l'Empereur mon maître attache à voir le Gouvernement de Sa Hauteur accorder un accueil favorable aux vœux et aux conseils des Puissances amies, pour ce qui concerne l'administration locale du Mont Liban. Dans nos divers entretiens avec Sarim Effendi je n'ai pas laissé ignorer à ce Ministre combien le Cabinet Impérial déplorait le peu de succès des représentations consacrées jusqu'ici à cette affaire. Il a mûrement examiné les scrupules mis en avant par la Sublime Porte. Il sait apprécier ce qu'elle doit à sa dignité comme aux droits souverains de Sa Hauteur, mais, loin d'y porter atteinte, il est persuadé qu'en prêtant une oreille impartiale aux demandes des populations, en

travaillant à les contenter et à réaliser de bonne grâce les espérances qu'on leur donna lorsque la Syrie reprit sous le pouvoir légitime, la Sublime Porte adoptera ainsi les moyens vraiment effectuels pour y consolider son autorité.

Afin d'atteindre ce but, et de mieux combiner les prétentions diverses, on est d'avis que la meilleure combinaison serait de rendre aux Chrétiens du Liban un Prince indigène Chrétien, qui, par les antécédents de sa famille et de sa personne, réunisse les suffrages de ses compatriotes; de donner aux Druses un chef Druse, choisi également parmi cette peuplade; et, tout en éloignant Omar Pacha, de nommer un commissaire ou surintendant Musulman qui réside dans le voisinage de la Montagne, et, chargé de surveiller les deux chefs précités, représente ainsi à leur égard la suprématie souveraine de la Sublime Porte.

Les informations que je possède m'autorisent à assurer Sarim Effendi que la Cour Impériale n'hésiterait point à applaudir à cet arrangement comme étant de nature à concilier le mieux tous les intérêts.

En prenant la liberté de le recommander comme tel à l'attention éclairée des Ministres Ottomans, j'aime à croire qu'on y trouverait une preuve du désir que ma Cour partage avec tous les autres États de la Haute Syrie de faciliter la solution définitive de l'affaire du Liban, et le retour de son autorité manquait de produire les effets désirables.

Je dois aussi en même temps vous signaler combien serait urgent et désirable d'envoyer à la Syrie les officiers réguliers. Au-dessus de la ligne des montagnes, les places pour les centurions y ont été créées. Les officiers réguliers, leur présence ne cessera d'être utile. Ils pourront surveiller et assainir l'ordre d'administration comme d'habitude. Ils pourront aussi surveiller les affaires locales, et ainsi les affaires locales et les affaires générales. Ils pourront aussi surveiller les affaires locales, et ainsi les affaires générales.

La présente instruction a été adressée à M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de la Sublime Porte, pour qu'il en fasse copie et la transmette à son Excellence.

Incluse 3 in No. 89

Instruction from the Baron de Bourqueney to Monsieur Cor.

Monsieur,

Theraps, 21 Août, 1842

VOUS vous rendrez chez son Excellence Sarim Effendi, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, et vous lui direz que j'ai reçu du Gouvernement du Roi l'ordre d'appeler la plus sérieuse attention du Gouvernement de Sa Hauteur sur les considérations, dans le développement desquelles je vais entrer.

Lorsqu'au mois de Février dernier, par un mouvement unanime et spontané, les Représentants des Cinq Cours adressèrent à la Sublime Porte leurs vives et pressantes réclamations contre la mesure qui venait de changer l'ancien ordre de choses existant dans le Liban, ils n'obéirent qu'à la conviction que la Porte cherchait dans une combinaison erronée un remède aux maux et aux excès qui désolaient des provinces récemment rendues à sa domination.

Animés avant tout du désir d'éviter, soit dans la forme, soit dans le fond de leur démarche, tout ce qui pouvait blesser la dignité du Sultan et la Sublime Porte qu'elle les autorisât à ne considérer que comme provisoire, peut-être même justifié par des circonstances courtes et temporaires, le brusque renversement d'un système de Gouvernement basé sur les croyances, les traditions et les habitudes des populations.

La Porte accepta le caractère provisoire de la mesure, et, dans son louable désir de parvenir à une connaissance exacte de la vérité, elle chargea d'une mission d'enquête un fonctionnaire investi de sa confiance. Selim Bey partit pour la Syrie.

Sur ces entrefaites, les Représentants des Cinq Cours avaient reçu de leurs Gouvernements respectifs une complète approbation de leur démarche du

10 Février; mais ces mêmes Gouvernements, avant de donner une forme plus précise et même définie aux nouveaux conseils qu'ils s'approprièrent à faire entendre à la Sublime Porte par l'organe de leurs Représentants, attendirent avec patience le résultat de l'enquête qui se poursuivait sur les lieux mêmes, et qui commençait à dépasser le terme assigné à sa durée.

Les Ministres de Sa Hauteur convoquèrent le 27 Mai, à une réunion chez son Excellence Sarim Effendi, les Représentants des Cinq Cours; de part et d'autre on exposa les faits recueillis; on tira les conclusions. Tout fut fidèlement rapporté par les Représentants à leurs Cabinets, et, ce devoir accompli, les Représentants attendirent leurs instructions.

Vous ne dissimulerez pas à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, que le récit de la Conférence du 27 Mai, loin d'avoir ramené les Cours Européennes à une appréciation différente de celle de leurs Représentants, les a pleinement confirmées dans la pensée que le moment est venu de faire entendre, avec plus de chaleur et de persévérance que jamais, le langage si sincèrement amical qu'elles ont tenu dès l'origine à la Sublime Porte.

La Porte a été mise à même par ses propres Ambassadeurs de vérifier l'exactitude de cette assertion.

Au moment où le retour de Selim Bey, qui vous a été annoncé comme très prochain par le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, va rendre inévitable la solution si longtemps différée, le Gouvernement du Roi m'a chargé d'exposer avec précision le jugement qu'il porte, en commun avec les Cours Alliées, sur la situation actuelle des affaires du Liban.

Le vice principal de cette situation c'est la substitution au régime établi de temps immémorial dans la Montagne, d'un nouveau système incompatible avec les habitudes du pays; c'est le remplacement de l'autorité indigène qui le gouvernait sous la souveraineté Ottomane par un Pacha dont la seule présence, en blessant les traditions et les susceptibilités des habitants, rend plus pesant pour eux le joug d'une sujétion aggravée par l'ignorance de leurs moeurs et de leurs besoins. Dans l'intérêt de la Porte, comme dans celui des populations de la Montagne, une telle situation, propre seulement à enfanter des mécontentements et des troubles, doit cesser promptement, et ces populations ne sauraient être trop tôt replacées sous une administration locale sortie de leur sein, et à ce titre investie de leur confiance. Les vœux des habitants, interrogés par la Sublime Porte elle-même, ne sont naguères parvenus à la Sublime Porte par une majorité, que la Sublime Porte ne peut être embarrassée dans le choix qu'elle est appelée à faire pour entrer dans la voie où la poussent les conseils unanimes et désintéressés de l'Europe.

Sans doute, cette administration, toujours sujette à la Sublime Porte, doit se rattacher à elle par quelque intermédiaire; mais le fonctionnaire Ottoman chargé de lui transmettre les ordres du pouvoir souverain, et qui résiderait à Beyrouth, ou sur les autres points de la Syrie, ne doit pas être en contact direct et immédiat avec la Montagne; il ne doit pas s'immiscer dans les détails de l'administration.

On a objecté au rétablissement d'un pareil mode de Gouvernement, que les Druses et les autres tribus non Chrétiennes de la Montagne éprouveraient une vive répugnance après la lutte qu'elles ont dernièrement soutenue contre les Maronites, à se voir de nouveau soumises à l'autorité d'un Prince choisi parmi leurs adversaires; si cette objection est fondée, rien n'empêcherait d'y pourvoir en donnant aux Druses un Chef particulier choisi dans leur sein; la co-existence, sur plusieurs points, de populations appartenant aux diverses races, ne saurait mettre obstacle à cette séparation, il serait facile de l'aplanir au moyen de quelques dispositions exceptionnelles.

Telles sont, Monsieur, les idées du Gouvernement du Roi sur l'organisation définitive à donner aux provinces du Liban, et en me chargeant de les exposer aux Ministres de Sa Hauteur, il se flatte d'être compris dans le sentiment qui les dicte et sur lequel elles se fondent.

Il m'est impossible d'admettre que la persévérance et le désintéressement du conseil que le Gouvernement du Roi renouvelle aujourd'hui à la Sublime Porte, par mon organe, de concert avec les autres Cours de l'Europe, n'appelle pas la plus sérieuse attention des Ministres de Sa Hauteur. Animés, comme ils le sont tous du plus pur dévouement aux intérêts de l'Empire, il doit leur tarder, comme à mon Cabinet, comme aux Cabinets Alliés, de mettre un terme aux complications inhérentes à une dissonance entre la

Sublime Porte et l'Europe sur une question qui appelle à tant de titres toute leur commune sollicitude, aux complications bien plus graves attachées à la prolongation de cette dissidence.

Vous terminerez en annonçant à son Excellence Sarim Effendi que mon Gouvernement apprendra avec une vive satisfaction la résolution prise par la Sublime Porte de rappeler de Syrie et de diriger sur un autre point de l'Empire Ottoman, 2,500 Albanais faisant partie du corps expéditionnaire récemment envoyé en Syrie. C'est avec le plus profond regret que le Gouvernement du Roi avait vu la Porte persister dans la résolution d'employer dans un pays où elle a tant d'intérêt à maintenir l'ordre et la paix, ces milices indisciplinées dont la présence est partout et toujours signalé par d'odieux excès.

Vous exprimerez l'espoir que le rappel des Albanais sera bientôt intégral. La Porte pourra rendre la Montagne à elle-même le jour où, sous le haut patronage de son autorité souveraine, elle aura fondé une administration assez populaire, assez forte, pour prévenir de nouvelles catastrophes.

C'est le vœu le plus sincère du Gouvernement du Roi.

Vous êtes autorisé, Monsieur, à laisser copie de la présente instruction dans les mains de son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères.

(Signé) BOURQUENEY

Inclosure 4 in No. 89

Instruction from M. de Wagner to M. Sturpovich.

29 Aadi, 1842.

LE Gouvernement Ottoman sera sans doute déjà informé par ses agens diplomatiques en Europe, des communications qui ont eu lieu entre les Cours amies de la Sublime Porte relativement aux affaires du Mont Liban, et que ces Cours, dans la crainte que l'état d'incertitude qui continue à régner parmi les habitans de la Montagne, en se prolongeant, ne troublerait sérieusement la paix et le repos de cette partie de l'Empire Ottoman, sont tombées d'accord de proposer à la Sublime Porte une combinaison propre à rétablir et à assurer, d'une manière solide, l'ordre et la tranquillité dans cette contrée, et de nature à satisfaire en même temps aux intérêts de la Sublime Porte ainsi qu'aux vœux de ses sujets. Cette combinaison consisterait à placer sous l'autorité supérieure d'un délégué de la Sublime Porte résidant dans le village, l'administration immédiate de la Montagne sous deux Chefs différens, c'est-à-dire, de donner aux Maronites un Prince Chrétien, choisi dans le sein de la nation et appuyé sur les sympathies de ses coreligionnaires, et aux Druses un Prince indigène, également choisi parmi eux.

Vous voudrez bien, Monsieur, assurer Monsieur le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de la Sublime Porte, que le Gouvernement du Roi, en partageant entièrement les opinions des autres Cours sur l'opportunité de l'arrangement sus-indiqué, aime à croire que son adoption, en faisant cesser les jalouses et les passions intestines qui ont affligé jusqu'à ces contrées, sera tout-à-fait calculée à y rétablir et à y consolider la paix et la tranquillité.

Vous voudrez à cette occasion appeler de nouveau l'attention sérieuse de son Excellence Sarim Effendi sur les graves inconvéniens que présente la prolongation du séjour des troupes irrégulières Albanaises en Syrie. Le Gouvernement du Roi apprendra sans doute avec satisfaction, qu'une partie de ces troupes a déjà été retirée de cette province, et que celles qui s'y trouvent encore sont sur le point de l'être.

En vous autorisant, Monsieur, de laisser une copie de cette instruction à son Excellence Sarim Effendi, je vous prie, &c

(Signé) WAGNER

No. 90.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 190.)

My Lord,

Beyukderé, September 16, 1842.

IN pursuance of an invitation from the Porte, and in company with the Representatives of Russia, France, Austria, and Prussia, I waited yesterday upon his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, with the view of again deliberating upon the affairs of Mount Lebanon. Sarim Effendi was not alone. The Captain Pasha, the President of the Council, and Rza Pasha, were also present, and each in his turn took part in the deliberation. No official protocol was taken on either side, and although I was requested to express the sentiments of my colleagues, that circumstance did not prevent their taking part occasionally in the argument, and from the French Minister, in particular, I received an active and energetic support.

As the discussion rested almost entirely upon the same grounds as before, it cannot be necessary to trouble your Lordship with its details.

According to the Turkish Representatives the tranquillity of Syria was the common object of both parties, and that object, now happily, as they said, effected by the measures of the Seraskier, would be secured in future by the appointment of a Vizier over the whole district from Acre to Tripoli, including the population of Mount Lebanon. In support of this view, it was asserted that Selim Bey, who was present, had ascertained, by local inquiry, that the inhabitants of the Mountain were very generally in favour of a Turkish Governor; that the petitions sent up by the Seraskier were fairly obtained, and really expressive of the popular inclination; and that whatever allegations of a contrary description had been made by the Consuls, they were, in fact, nothing but the interested statements of the Shehab family and their immediate adherents.

It was further advanced on the same score, that the separation of the Maronites and Druses under different laws, which the respective rulers, would prove a fresh element of disorder, that, after the Maronite hours much serious disturbance had taken place, and frequent conflicts had been committed, that the Turkish Pasha, whether at Acre or elsewhere, who had always been understood to extend his authority over Mount Lebanon, had occasionally interfered by dissuading the quarrel, and that of the camps for plunder of property, but that the ascertained amount had been regulated, while the rest of the half was in a course of judicial settlement.

The Turkish Ministers went on to state, that while they saw no objection to place a Kaimakan or Lieutenant of the Superintending Vizier in the immediate government of each section of the Mountain, and to allow a Kiaya or Chargé d'Affaires from each party to reside at the Vizier's court, they could not reconcile the appointment of a Druse and Christian Prince to those subordinate charges, with their view of what was necessary to secure the Sultan's interests and the tranquillity of the country. They further observed, that the local administration was sufficiently provided for by the Hadji Bashas or Village notables, to whom it was customary in Turkey to commit the management of local interests; and that since the Allied Powers did not mean to dictate, but simply to advise what they conceived to be most conducive to the tranquillity of Mount Lebanon, they would not accept that advice consistently with their own conviction, founded, as it was, on the statement of their accredited agents, the results of local inquiry, and the ascertained inclinations of the inhabitants themselves.

The Representatives, on the other hand, repeated the arguments formerly adduced; they dwelt particularly upon those contained in your Lordship's instruction to me; they contrasted the information derived from their respective Consuls in Syria with the assertions of Selim Bey; they again complained of the corruption and intimidation which had been used in getting up the petitions for a Turkish Governor; and, feeling strongly the inconvenience of engaging in a process of mutual recrimination, implored the Turkish Ministers to take a more statesmanlike view of the question, and, for the sake

of establishing the present very doubtful tranquillity of Mount Lebanon on a permanent, wise, and benevolent footing, to adopt the whole of that combination which the Christian Powers had recommended, as best adapted to all the circumstances of the case, and calculated to unite the authority of the Sultan with the wants and habits of a Christian people, whose attachment to their Sovereign would thenceforth derive additional strength from the concurrent opinion of Europe, and the removal of any just motive for looking to foreign interference.

I must not omit to mention, that when the late unfortunate occurrences at Gazir were cited in proof of the tendency to disturbances which still existed in Mount Lebanon, and which would probably manifest itself far more decidedly if the expectation founded upon our exertions were withdrawn, the Minister for Foreign Affairs did not hesitate to attribute that exception to the presence of the French squadron off Beyrout; nor did the French Minister reply to the insinuation otherwise than by declaring that the squadron had visited the coast of Syria with no such view, and that it had since returned to its former station at Smyrna.

In reviewing all that passed, I have no doubt that the Porte is sincerely anxious to bring this question of Mount Lebanon to a close. It is, no doubt, for this purpose, that the progressive restitution of the plundered property has been announced to us. The complete withdrawal of the Albanian troops from Syria, which was also promised by Riza Pasha, is, no doubt, intended to gratify the Allied Powers. The same may be said of the other less important concessions. But the point of permanent importance remains behind. I mean the appointment of chiefs selected from the Druses and Maronites. This is a point to which the Porte adheres with a degree of obstinacy, not altered by the removal of the Grand Vizier, and only to be explained by her reliance on the intentions of the Allies to abstain from taking any step of a coercive or intimidating character. The Turkish Representatives were not to be shaken even by a very explicit intimation, that little difficulty would be made to carry any reasonable suggestion advanced by them as a security against the effects apprehended by the proposed appointment. Even the admission of a small military force, under the command of an officer, delegated by the Vizier and stationed at some convenient post between the Druses and the Maronites, would not perhaps have been rejected by us. It has offered the means of reconciling them to our demand; but in spite of every effort and of every explanation on our part we were obliged to had them prepared to meet the matter short by a positive, though not uncourteous, refusal; nor was it without extreme difficulty that they were, at last, persuaded to suspend their decision, until the pleasure of the Sultan could be taken upon the report of our deliberations.

In this suspended state the question remains at present; and there is only a faint hope of the Porte announcing any change in her decision, when we are invited, according to the promise of the Turkish Ministers, to a fresh interchange of communications with them.

At a subsequent meeting with my colleagues, the expediency of taking any further step, under the present circumstances, was considered, and the want of unanimity, as to any particular mode of proceeding, has induced us to await in silence the further deliberations of the Ottoman Council.

I have endeavoured, however, to provide against the effects of any unfavourable reports transmitted to Syria by circulating Colonel Rose's report, which has occurred, and recommending him to persist in discouraging the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon from resorting to any aggressive means of redress.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

P.S.—The removal of Omar Pasha from the government of the Mount Lebanon was again stated by the Turkish Minister as a measure to which the Porte had no objection.

S C

No. 91

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 195.)

My Lord,

Beyrout, September 27, 1842

THE Turkish Government, I state it with regret, persists in withholding its assent to the plan of settlement proposed by the Five Allied Cabinets for the future administration of Mount Lebanon. The postponement of a final decision, which was obtained with so much difficulty at the late Conference, has not produced any favourable change. By means both of private and official channels, I have made every practicable effort to obtain the result desired by your Lordship; but, whatever may be effected at a later period, no reasonable hope remains, for the present, of removing or overcoming the objections of the Porte.

This morning the paper of which a copy is herewith inclosed, was communicated to me on the part of Sarim Effendi; a similar communication was subsequently made to the other Representatives of the Four Powers. It announces the deliberate opinion of the Government under the sanction of the Sultan, and may be fairly described as embracing every point, but that particular one, which constitutes the principal, and, indeed, the essential feature of our proposals. The removal of the Albanians, the dismissal of Omar Pasha, the restitution of the plundered property, the separation of the Druses from the Christians, and the confirmation of the ancient privileges, as to religion, taxation, and justice, are clearly conceded; but the appointment of a Druse and a Christian chief over the respective districts of the Mountain continues to meet with unabated opposition.

In reply to the Dragoman of the Porte, who waited upon me with the instruction addressed to him by Sarim Effendi, I observed, after reading it, that, with every sentiment of respect for a decision emanating from the Sultan, I could not but express my deep concern at the disinclination of the Porte to accept the advice deliberately offered to her, in so friendly a manner, by the Five Great Powers of Europe. I added, that, after communicating upon the subject with my colleagues, I should not fail to submit to Sarim Effendi, the remarks which we might deem it our duty to offer on a question of so much delicacy and interest.

Whatever may be my own impression as to the utility of any further attempt to dissuade the Turkish Ministers from their present course, without a fresh reference to the respective Cabinets, I shall be careful not to act upon it, without ascertaining that it is equally entertained by the other Representatives. Nor is this the only point which I am anxious to keep in view. The Porte, I conceive, must be discouraged by an expression of our joint opinion from taking any step for the immediate appointment of Turkish Lieutenant-Governors over the Druse and Maronite districts of Mount Lebanon. We are, perhaps, also bound to intimate that we are not warranted to hold out the prospect of any essential change in the terms of advice already given by the Five Powers with such perfect unanimity of sentiment and language. As to any reasonable modification or accessory arrangement calculated to reconcile the Porte to what we are instructed to recommend as indispensable for the permanent tranquillity and good government of Syria, a sufficient door has already been opened by us; and I shall not consent to anything which may have the effect of closing it, and thereby increasing the difficulties which must necessarily attend upon a reconsideration of this complicated question.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Instruction from Sarim Effendi to the Dragoman of the Porte

(Traduction.)

27 Septembre, 1842.

DANS la conférence qui eut lieu jeudi 10 Chaban, dans ma maison de campagne, avec Messieurs les Représentans des Cinq Grandes Puissances, relativement à la question du Liban, et à laquelle ont pris part leurs Excellences le Président du Conseil, Halil Pacha, le Grand Amiral, Riza Pacha, et le commissaire de la Porte, Selim Bey, il avait été convenu que les discussions qui ont roulé dans cette conférence, seraient portées à la connaissance de Sa Hautesse, et que cette question serait encore l'objet de nouvelles communications.

Le rapport de cette conférence a été mis sous les yeux de Sa Hautesse, qui, après quelque temps de méditation, a ordonné, conformément à la décision prise au sein de cette conférence, le renvoi de Beyrouth, des troupes Albanaises en garnison de cette ville.

L'assemblée a été parfaitement d'accord sur la solution à donner à cette question, et le point de vue qui a été l'objet de quelque hésitation est tout le point de savoir, si les lieutenans que le Mouchir de Saida aurait à nommer pour les mettre à la tête des Druses et des Maronites, doivent être pris parmi eux-mêmes, ou les hommes étrangers à ces nations; hésitation qui n'est, au reste, que l'effet de la divergence qui existe entre les informations recueillies par la Sublime Porte et celles qui sont parvenues à MM. les Représentans des Puissances.

Quels que soient les moyens que l'on veuille employer, pour parvenir à dissiper cette hésitation, et concilier les opinions, la solution de cette question, si importante en elle-même, étant le seul but que l'on se propose d'atteindre, la Sublime Porte se livre à l'espoir, que la ligne de conduite suivie par elle ne manquera pas d'être appréciée.

La Sublime Porte, obligée de croire à la réalité des informations recueillies par ses propres agens, et ne pouvant, en l'absence de preuves convaincantes, se dire avoir été mal renseignée, évite autant qu'il est en elle, de donner lieu à de nouveaux troubles par une conduite opposée, ce qui ne manquera pas de remettre en émoi les esprits en Europe, et cette pensée préoccupe tellement son attention, qu'il est impossible de l'exprimer. D'un autre côté, la Sublime Porte se montre constamment disposée à écouter et apprécier les conseils aussi sincères que bienveillans donnés par les Grandes Puissances ses amies et alliées, qui sont si désireuses du bien-être de ses états et de l'indépendance de son autorité, et ce fut MM. les Représentans eux-mêmes ne peuvent pas ne pas l'avouer.

Dans cette conviction, la Sublime Porte ne saurait jamais s'imaginer que les instructions collectivement présentées en dernier lieu au Ministère Ottoman, eussent été données dans l'intention d'user de contrainte à son égard; et se croyant fondée dans son opinion qu'elles ont été combinées d'après les informations précédentes, basées sur l'idée de la tranquillité perpétuelle et unanimement désirée, elle s'empresse d'exprimer ci-après les vues qui l'autorisent dans l'intérêt de ces états.

La Sublime Porte se félicite de voir que le système suivi par elle à l'égard des populations du Mont Liban, a été si généralement apprécié, et à l'équité: ce qui le prouve c'est que la population du Liban, composée de six communautés différentes, est parvenue à jouir d'une paix et d'une tranquillité immenses auxquelles elle était tenue de satisfaire sous l'ancien système.

Ces populations ont cessé d'être l'objet de vexations auxquelles elles étaient autrefois en butte, et personne ne les inquiète plus dans l'exercice de leurs devoirs religieux qu'elles accomplissent en toute liberté.

Indépendamment de tout cela, la tranquillité, qui forme l'objet surtout de l'intérêt de Sa Hautesse, s'est maintenue grâce à Dieu dans les provinces; et comme il est indubitable que cette tranquillité continuera à y régner, et que le Mont Liban, par conséquent, il a été à des époques récentes, sous la juridiction et la surveillance du Gouverneur de la Province de Saida, sera administré par ce dernier, avec justice et droiture, la Sublime Porte n'hésite pas d'en assurer tous ceux d'entre ses amis qui conservent des doutes

à cet égard, et elle désire par conséquent, le maintien de l'ordre des choses actuel dans la Montagne.

La Sublime Porte se propose de destituer Omar Pacha, pour faire cesser tant de propos qui ont circulé sur son compte, et de procéder à la nomination de deux personnes choisies parmi les employés du Gouvernement qui se recommandent par leur capacité et leur droiture, pour les envoyer au Liban en qualité de Kaïmacams, l'un pour les Druses, et l'autre pour les Maronites. Ces deux nations seront invitées à choisir parmi elles deux députés qui rentreront à Beyrouth auprès du gouverneur de cette ville.

La Sublime Porte se propose également d'engager au même gouverneur à procéder à la restitution de tous les biens enlevés aux Maronites, indépendamment de ceux qui ont été déjà rendus à leurs propriétaires, et dont la valeur s'élève au-delà de la somme de 20 000 bourses.

Telles sont les dispositions qui serviront de base aux instructions que la Sublime Porte a l'intention d'envoyer au gouverneur sus-mentionné.

La Sublime Porte aime à se flatter que MM. les Représentans des Grandes Puissances voudront bien apprécier ces dispositions de sa part, en même temps qu'elle les invite à les transmettre à leurs Cours respectives.

Je vous engage donc, Monsieur, de vous rendre personnellement, auprès de son Excellence Sir Stratford Canning, Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique, et lui communiquer les dispositions que la Sublime Porte a l'intention de prendre, conformément à la volonté impériale de Sa Hautesse.

Je vous engage également à lui remettre la traduction Française de cette instruction, et à saisir cette occasion pour lui réitérer les assurances de ma considération très distinguée.

No. 92

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 199.)

My Lord,

Beyrouth, September 30, 1842

AT a meeting which took place yesterday at my house, I entered into a full consideration with my colleagues, the Representatives of Austria, Russia, France, and Prussia, of the present very unsatisfactory stage of the Syrian affair. We agreed that nothing remained to be done by us, with any reasonable prospect of success, until the opinion of the Porte, as declared in Sarim Effendi's instruction to his Dragoman, should be brought under the notice of our respective Cabinets. The copy, inclosed herewith, of an instruction addressed by me to M. Pisani for communication to Sarim Effendi, will sufficiently explain to your Lordship the view which we concurred in taking of the question in its present state. It was agreed that each Representative should send in a paper of similar purport, and I hope to have it in my power to forward to your Lordship by the next opportunity copies of the several instructions drawn up by my colleagues in harmony with mine.

M. Pisani's report of the Reis Effendi's reply, a copy of which is also inclosed herewith, completes what I have to communicate upon this subject.

I ought, however, to add, that the title of Governor of Beyrouth, adopted in Sarim Effendi's instruction, is not meant to designate a separate functionary, but only, under another form, the Pasha of Saida, Superintendent of Mount Lebanon.

We have agreed, in conclusion, to write to the respective Consuls at Beyrouth, enjoining them to persevere in contributing, by their conduct and language, to the tranquillity of Mount Lebanon during the interval which must elapse before the question of the Syrian Government can be known to us.

I have, &c.
Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 92.

Sir Stratford Canning to M. Pisanl.

Monsieur,

Beyukderé, le 29 Septembre, 1842

IL y a deux jours que le Drogman de la Porte me présente la copie d'une instruction que son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères lui avait adressée en date de 21 du mois Chaban. Par cette communication Sarim Effendi a bien voulu m'annoncer le résultat des délibérations du Conseil Ottoman, et surtout le jugement qu'a daigné porter Sa Hauteur sur les divers points qui lui ont été soumis à la suite de la dernière conférence relative aux affaires du Mont Liban.

Cette pièce, dont la rédaction toute entière et la substance même en grande partie répondent à l'esprit amical qui a dicté l'avis des Cours Alliées, renferme, quant à son plan, l'autant de satisfaisant qu'elle repousse leurs conseils par rapport aux points essentiels de la question.

La Porte s'engage à faire retirer les troupes Abkhazes de la Syrie à destituer Omar Pacha, à donner aux Druses et aux Maronites des Gouverneurs séparés, mais elle ne consent pas à ce que ces Gouverneurs soient choisis d'entre les nationaux de chaque communauté.

Conformément au désir de la Porte, je me ferai un devoir de mettre l'instruction de Sarim Effendi sous les yeux de mon Gouvernement, qui ne manquera pas de rendre justice à ses motifs, et de peser toutes ses objections. Je lui avouer, néanmoins, avec la franchise d'une véritable amitié, que les opinions énoncées par mes collègues et moi à la conférence, demeurent toujours les mêmes; que j'apprends avec bien des regrets les opinions énoncées par la Porte; et que si je consens à en référer de nouveau à ma Cour, c'est dans l'assurance que la Porte, en attendant une réponse de ma part, suspendra l'exécution de son projet, en tant qu'il soit contraire aux sentiments et aux conseils des Cinq Cours, ses amies.

Vous remettrez une copie de cette instruction à Sarim Effendi, en offrant à son Excellence l'assurance de ma parfaite considération

(Signé) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure 2 in No. 92

M. Pisanl to Sir Stratford Canning.

Excellence,

Paris, ce 30 Septembre, 1842

J'AI l'honneur de vous faire savoir que, conformément à vos ordres, j'ai remis à Sarim Effendi copie de l'instruction de Votre Excellence en date d'hier, sur les affaires du Mont Liban, après l'avoir lue et expliquée en Turc à son Excellence.

Sarim Effendi m'a fait la réponse suivante: "J'ai parfaitement compris cette instruction, qui est une réponse à la communication que j'ai faite dernièrement à MM. les Représentans des Puissances amies. Naturellement, la Sublime Porte n'a rien à faire à présent; et le système actuel au Mont Liban continuera jusqu'à ce que le temps sera venu de se concerter avec MM. les Représentans sur la mise à exécution des mesures qui viennent de leur être communiquées. Voilà ma réponse, que vous transmettez de ma part à son Excellence Sir Stratford Canning."

J'ai l'honneur &c.,
(Signé) FRED. PISANL

No. 93

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 204)

My Lord,

Beyukderé, September 30, 1842

THE embarrassments connected with the protraction of the Syrian question are so manifest, that I am anxious to afford your Lordship all the information in my power respecting its cause and the means of terminating it with credit.

In the first place, the introduction of Mahometan Governors into Mount Lebanon is part of a general system of policy which, though it has lost its most active supporter in the person of the late Grand Vizier, is naturally an object of predilection to all Turkish Ministers, and even to the Sovereign himself; nor can it be denied, that as an instrument of tranquility and subordination, much in theory, and still more from experience, might be urged in its favour.

Secondly, the Porte had acquired a complete knowledge of your Lordship's instructions to me, which are, in reality, the instructions of my colleagues also. It matters little from what source this knowledge was derived, whether from Ali Effendi, or from any Cabinet to which they were communicated. Private information leads me to believe, that Ali Effendi's reports from London, not only deprived me of the credit derivable from what was conceded, but removed every apprehension of refusing what remained. I had no choice but to abound in friendly assurances; and though I intimated the possibility of eventual complications, the authority, which alone could discredit that idea, was wanting.

In addition to these causes of failure, the unassisted of the Representatives lost something of its effect, by reason of previous appearances; and it may be readily conceived that the new Grand Vizier had some responsibility to apprehend.

With respect to our means of overcoming the reluctance of the Porte, it is evident that we can only derive them now from fresh instructions. It is natural to suppose that Her Majesty's Government will not recede from their position without a change effected by new negotiations or new considerations. Supposing the same change to result from our late communications with the Porte, I will submit to your Lordship, in a few words what appears to me as offering the only prospect of success, without resorting to revocation of any of our previous measures. I look elsewhere for an expedient, where already it is to be found in the rejection of Mustapha Pacha's assertions, the modification of the present proposals, and an estimation of eventual consequences.

As the Porte, after all, may now be acting with the view of rather justifying a future concession than of maintaining an indefinite resistance, the Allies may possibly carry their point by a simple adherence to the advice already given, and by the adoption of the statements and petitions supported by the Consuls in Beyrout, as contrasted with those of the Seraskier and Selim Bey.

But the success of such a step may be greatly advanced by authorizing the Representatives, in case of its failure, to admit the establishment of a military station under the command of a Turkish officer in some part of the Mountain situated between the respective masses of the Druse and Christian population, and to announce the intention of persisting in the same demand, and of holding the Porte responsible for any future acts of violence or disturbances occurring in the Mountain.

The admission of a Turkish military force, however small, is, no doubt, objectionable in more respects than one; but, under the proposed arrangement, it is not a permanent force, and it is not a permanent force. It is deemed a preferable alternative to the occasional introduction of a larger and less controllable force, on the plea of disturbance, actual or apprehended.

To atone for the shock which such an admission might give to the feelings or prejudices of the Christians, a firman, specifying and confirming

their ancient privileges might be issued at the request and under the guarantee of the Five Powers.

As an additional security to the Porte, an agent or counsellor on behalf of the Pasha of Saida might be allowed to reside with the respective Princes of Mount Lebanon.

In submitting these suggestions for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, I have only to solicit your Lordship's indulgence, and to express my conviction that the most guarded management as to our future instructions is indispensable to producing the desired effect upon the Porte.

I have, &c.,

STRATFORD CANNING

No. 91

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning

(No. 127.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 24, 1842

I RECEIVED, on the 8th of this month, your Excellency's despatch, No. 190, of the 16th of September, giving an account of what passed in a conference held on the previous day by your Excellency and your colleagues with the Turkish Ministers, relative to the affairs of Syria; and I have since received from your Excellency, a copy of the paper delivered to you by the Dragoman of the Porte, on the 27th of September. As I have since the decision of the Porte on the several questions discussed in the Conference of the 16th of September, I do not consider it necessary to advert to your Excellency's despatch, further than to inform you that Her Majesty's Government cordially approve the manner in which you conducted the discussion with the Turkish Ministers, and endeavoured to prevail upon them to comply with the reasonable wishes of the Allies on the most important point under consideration.

With regard, however, to the paper delivered to your Excellency by the Dragoman of the Porte on the 27th of September, I have to state to your Excellency that the contents of it are, to a certain extent, satisfactory.

Her Majesty's Government accept with pleasure the engagement of the Porte, that the Albanian troops shall be immediately withdrawn from Beyrout and Sidon, and that the removal of those troops from Syria altogether. Your Excellency will continue to press this latter point on the Porte, in the strongest manner, and you will represent to the Turkish Government, that Her Majesty's Government insist upon it, not only with reference to the view they take of the interests of the Porte, but with reference to the engagements which they contracted in 1840, on the faith of the assurances given to the British Ambassador at Constantinople by the Porte, that the Syrians should not be oppressed.

Her Majesty's Government accept also, with pleasure, the engagement of the Porte, that Omar Pasha shall be immediately dismissed from the office of Governor of Mount Lebanon, and that the Government of Mount Lebanon is to be vested, to the exclusion of all other authorities, in the hands of the Maronites, who were the only authority which the Maronites were dependent upon, and that portion thereof which has been vested in the hands of the Maronites.

Thus far, then, Her Majesty's Government accept with pleasure the engagements of the Porte; and they are not disposed to question either the justice or the expediency of vesting in a Turkish authority, the Governor of Sidon, the superintendence of all the districts of Mount Lebanon. They only trust that the Government of the Porte will bear in mind the serious difficulties which must inevitably result from the appointment of any one whose character will not be a sufficient guarantee for the exercise of his functions with justice, rectitude, and moderation. But Her Majesty's Government are constrained to say that they are much disappointed with the arrangement which the Porte proposes to make for the

more immediate government of the Christian and Druze populations. The Porte has decided that the immediate Governors of those populations shall be Mahometans. Her Majesty's Government cannot be satisfied with this arrangement. The question has not, as stated by the Porte, turned upon the amount of credit to be given to the different reports received by the British Government or the Government of the Five Powers on the one hand, and by the Five Powers on the other, as to the state of affairs in Lebanon, and as to the inclinations of the several populations manifested in their addresses, whether feigned or sincere, to the Sultan's throne; but the demand of Her Majesty's Government has rested on the pledge given to the British Ambassador by the Porte, in the year 1840, that the ancient rights and privileges of the Syrians should be respected. Her Majesty's Government, relying upon the sincerity of the Porte, communicated, through its agents, that pledge to the people of Syria; and they have therefore become morally responsible for its fulfilment. And as it is one of the ancient rights and privileges of the Syrians of Mount Lebanon, that they should be governed by their own rulers, and not by Mahometan officers, Her Majesty's Government must continue to insist upon the Porte securing those populations in the enjoyment of this most essential privilege. Accordingly, your Excellency is instructed to state distinctly to the Porte, as I have also stated within these few days to the Turkish Ambassador in this country, that no arrangement of the affairs of Syria, which shall not include this indispensable provision, will be accepted by Her Majesty's Government as the fulfilment of the pledge given to them by the Porte, in favour of the Syrians, in the year 1840.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) ABERDEEN

No. 95

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning

(No. 128.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 24, 1842

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that shortly after the nature of the answer given by the Porte on the 27th ultimo, to the representations of the Allies respecting the future government of Syria, was known in this country, Baron Brunnow called upon me in order to ascertain the view taken by Her Majesty's Government of that answer, and the instructions which, under the circumstances, they intended to give to your Excellency.

I accordingly stated to Baron Brunnow, that Her Majesty's Government felt bound to require from the Porte a compliance with their demand, that the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon should be governed directly by rulers selected from among themselves, and not by Mahometan officers, and that your Excellency would be instructed to insist upon the Porte securing the people of that district in the enjoyment of this most essential privilege.

I have since seen Baron Brunnow, and have been informed by him, that he has written by the present messenger to M de Boutéocq, apprizing him of the determination of Her Majesty's Government in this respect, and requesting him to urge the Porte in the strongest manner, to comply with the demand which your Excellency is instructed to address to it, and not to expect that Her Majesty's Government will be induced by any considerations whatever to depart from it.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) ABERDEEN

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 133.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 24, 1842.

I HAVE to request your Excellency to endeavour to ascertain, as nearly as possible, the nature and amount of the claims which the Emir Beshir Effendi has upon the Porte, for property plundered in Syria, or for money due to him by the Porte; and also what proportion of them, if any, has been satisfied. I need scarcely repeat to your Excellency, that Her Majesty's Government are very anxious that all the just claims of the Emir Beshir Effendi should be attended to by the Porte; and that you will, therefore, advocate his interests in this respect on all occasions when the circumstances of the case admit of your so doing.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN

No. 97

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 207)

My Lord,

Duyukderé, October 5, 1842

REFERRING to my last despatch on Syrian affairs, I have the honour to inclose copies of the several instructions addressed by the other Representatives of the Five Powers to their respective interpreters, in answer to the communications made to us, respecting the decision of the Porte as to the future government of Mount Lebanon.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure 1 in No. 97

*Instruction from M. de Kietzel to the Baron de Testa.**1 Octobre, 1842*

JE vous invite M. le Baron, à vous acquitter du message suivant envers M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

J'ai pris connaissance de l'instruction datée du 21 Chaban, dont son Excellence Sarim Effendi avait muni l'interprète du Divan, Safet Effendi, relativement aux affaires du Mont Liban, et je me suis empressé de la transmettre à Vienne par la dernière poste, expédiée le 28 Septembre.

Dans l'attente de la réponse que la Cour Impériale se verra dans le cas de faire à cette communication, je me félicite de pouvoir assurer d'avance la Sublime Porte de la véritable satisfaction que lui fera éprouver l'ordre donné par Sa Majesté le Sultan pour le renvoi immédiat des troupes Albanaises des environs de la Montagne, ordre qui témoigne hautement des sentiments d'humanité de ce Monarque, et de sa bienveillance paternelle pour ses sujets.

Je ne puis toutefois que regretter la divergence qui règne entre les propositions de la Sublime Porte et les conseils donnés par les Puissances ses amies, sur le point principal, c'est-à-dire, la nationalité des chefs à nommer pour les Maronites et les Druses; et je croirais agir contrairement aux rapports de franchise et d'amitié qui existent entre nos deux Cours, si je laissais ignorer à la Sublime Porte que ma manière de voir, ainsi que celle de MM. les Représentants des autres Puissances, sur cet objet, n'a subi aucune modification. C'est donc avec plaisir que j'ai cru trouver dans la retardation de

l'instruction adressée à l'interprète du Divan, la confirmation de mon espoir que la Sublime Porte ne donnerait aucune suite aux mesures qui y sont exposées, avant l'arrivée des réponses des Cinq Cours.

Vous êtes autorisé, Monsieur le Baron, à laisser copie de la présente instruction à son Excellence Sarim Effendi, en lui renouvelant l'assurance de ma haute considération.

Inclosure 2 in No. 97.

Instruction from M. de Wagner to M. Shepworth.

Monsieur,

1 Octobre, 1842.

L'INTERPRETE du Divan, Safet Effendi, m'a remis mardi dernier la traduction d'une instruction, datée du 21 Chaban, 1258, par laquelle son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères l'invite à annoncer les dispositions que la Sublime Porte a l'intention de prendre relativement à la forme du gouvernement à donner au Mont Liban.

J'ai vu avec une vive satisfaction que la Sublime Porte a pris la sage détermination de rappeler les troupes Albanaises qui se trouvent encore en garnison à Beyrouth, et je suis persuadé que le Gouvernement du Roi reconnaîtra avec plaisir dans cette mesure, et dans l'éloignement complet de cette milice des environs du Mont Liban, un nouveau témoignage de la sollicitude paternelle du Grand Seigneur pour le bien-être et le repos des habitants de cette contrée.

Tout en rendant justice au désir manifesté par la Sublime Porte de se rapprocher des vues des Puissances amies, et à l'esprit de conciliation qui a dicté ses dernières propositions, je ne saurais cependant dissimuler à son Excellence Sarim Effendi que je ne puis pas me persuader que la réalisation du projet du Divan de confier l'administration immédiate de la Montagne à des employés du Gouvernement, étrangers aux mœurs, à la nationalité et à la religion des habitants, offrirait les mêmes garanties pour l'accomplissement des vœux communs de la Sublime Porte et de ses Alliés, que l'aurait fait la nomination de deux chefs indigènes, dont l'un pour les Druses et l'autre pour les Maronites.

Je me suis empressé de porter à la connaissance du Gouvernement du Roi le contenu de l'instruction susmentionnée, et en vous autorisant, Monsieur, à laisser une copie de la présente à son Excellence Sarim Effendi, je vous prie, &c.

(Signed) WAGNER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 97.

Instruction from the Baron de Bourqueney to M. Cor.

Monsieur,

Thérapsia, 29 Septembre, 1842.

SAFET EFFENDI, Interprète du Divan Impérial m'a remis l'instruction écrite de Sarim Effendi, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, datée du 21 de Chaban, 1258 (27 Septembre, 1842), et relative aux objets traités dans la conférence qui a eu lieu le 10 de Chaban (15 Septembre), entre plusieurs membres du Conseil de Sa Hauteur et les Représentants des Cinq Cours Alliées.

Vous vous rendrez chez son Excellence Sarim Effendi, et vous lui exprimerez la satisfaction avec laquelle j'ai appris par la lecture de ce document, la détermination déjà prise par Sa Hauteur, de rappeler de Beyrouth les troupes Albanaises en garnison dans cette ville. Une détermination aussi conforme aux vœux des Cours Alliées et aux sentiments de bienveillance paternelle que Sa Hauteur est toujours prête à témoigner à tous les sujets de son empire sera dignement appréciée par mon Gouvernement, qui y verra le complément de l'évacuation totale de la Montagne par les troupes Albanaises.

évacuation annoncée et promise par les Ministres de Sa Hautesse dans la conférence du 15 Septembre.

Vous annoncerez à son Excellence Sarim Effendi, que je ne manquerai pas de transmettre à mon Gouvernement les propositions contenues dans l'instruction adressée à l'interprète du Divan, et de faire ressortir le ton de conciliation qui a présidé à sa rédaction, ainsi que les pas de rapprochement que vient de faire la Sublime Porte vers l'opinion des Cours Alliées en retour de ceux que les Cours Alliées ont déjà faits et les-mêmes vers l'opinion et les sentiments exprimés dans les pourparlers antérieurs par les Ministres de la Sublime Porte.

Mais vous ajouterez, que tout en puisant dans cette circonstance l'espoir d'une prompte et définitive conciliation, je ne remplirai pas mes devoirs de Représentant d'une Puissance amie et alliée de la Sublime Porte, si je ne m'empresse d'avertir les Ministres de Sa Hautesse, que sur le point fondamental qui nous divise encore, sur le choix d'un Prince indigène pour gouverner les Druses et les Maronites, mon opinion, ainsi que celle de mes collègues, n'a subi aucune modification, et que je continue à voir dans l'adoption de cette mesure, le seul moyen d'assurer le repos des populations du Liban, et de rétablir entre la Sublime Porte et les Puissances Alliées l'harmonie de vues et de rapports que nous avons tous à cœur de maintenir et de consolider.

Vous êtes autorisé à laisser copie de la présente instruction dans les mains de son Excellence Sarim Effendi.

Recevez, &c.,
(Signé) BOURQUENEY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 97.

Instruction from M. de Titow to Prince Handjery.

15 Septembre, 1842.

L'INTERPRETE du Divan Impérial est venu m'exposer le contenu de l'instruction dont son Excellence Sarim Effendi l'a muni le 21 Chaban (11 Septembre), par suite de la dernière conférence relative aux affaires du Mont Liban; et d'après les ordres qui lui étaient donnés par M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, il m'a remis la dite instruction traduite en langue Française.

Selon l'instruction de la Sublime Porte, je ne manquerai pas de porter à la connaissance du Cabinet Impérial les résolutions que Sarim Effendi s'est trouvé appelé à me communiquer par cette pièce. Son Excellence ne saurait douter de la vive satisfaction avec laquelle ma Cour apprendra que Sa Hautesse dans sa paternelle sollicitude pour le bien-être des peuples du Liban, a daigné ordonner le renvoi définitif des milices Albanaises.

La Cour Impériale n'applaudira pas moins aux vues pleines de sagesse que la Sublime Porte manifeste en faveur des Chrétiens de la Montagne pour ce qui concerne le libre exercice du culte, la restitution des biens enlevés, et l'éloignement d'Omar Pacha.

Quant au mode projeté pour l'administration intérieure des Druses et des Maronites, les Ministres Ottomans connaissent déjà notre manière d'envisager cette question. Je regrette de ne pouvoir la modifier d'aucune façon. Mais, vu la confiance amicale de la Sublime Porte envers les Puissances amies, je m'abandonne à l'espoir qu'avant de connaître leur avis, aucune mesure décisive ne sera prise à cet égard.

En vous acquittant de la présente instruction auprès de Sarim Effendi, vous êtes autorisé, mon Prince, à en laisser copie chez ce Ministre.

No. 98.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 136.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 31, 1842.

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency, that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve of the course which you took, in common with your colleagues, on receiving from the Dragoman of the Porte on the 27th ultimo, the answer of the Turkish Government to the representations of the Allied Powers on the affairs of Mount Lebanon.

My despatch No. 127 of the 24th instant, will enable your Excellency to acquaint the Turkish Ministers with the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government on the decision of the Porte respecting those affairs, as contained in the communication made to your Excellency on the 27th of September.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN

No. 99.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 215.)

My Lord,

Buyukderé, October 17, 1842

IN the last conference between the Ministers of the Porte and the Representatives of the Five Powers, Sarim Effendi informed us, that property to the amount of 20,000 or of 25,000 purses had been restored to the Maronites, after a judicial inquiry, by Mustapha Pasha, and that receipts for that amount of property had been forwarded to him by the Seraskier.

In my correspondence with Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, I stated the substance of this communication, and was greatly surprised to learn from Colonel Rose, that the statement thus solemnly made by Sarim Effendi was utterly destitute of foundation in fact.

I lost no time in applying to Sarim Effendi for an explanation of this astonishing contradiction, and I have the honour to inclose, herewith, a copy of the instruction which I addressed to M. Pisani for that purpose, and also copies of the answers given to him by his Excellency the Effendi on two several occasions.

It does not appear that my colleagues, with some of whom I have communicated upon the subject, have received from their respective Consuls in Syria, any information similar to that which I have received from Colonel Rose.

It is but fair, however, to state, that one of the Maronite Agents, whom I saw at a late hour last night, so far corroborates the Consul's assertion as to state, that the receipts taken by Mustapha Pasha are not for property seized by the Druses, but for property abandoned subsequently by the Maronites, and either occupied by the Turkish authorities, or left for the time unoccupied by any one.

I shall avail myself of the earliest opportunity to communicate further with Colonel Rose upon this embarrassing and delicate question, nor shall I fail to ascertain from Sarim Effendi, whether he admits the interpretation of the Maronite Agent.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 99.

Sir Stratford Canning to M. Pisani.

Sir,

Buyukderé, Octobre 10, 1842.

I HAVE to request that you will wait upon Sarim Effendi, and communicate to his Excellency the accompanying extract of a despatch and its inclosures, addressed to me by Her Majesty's Consul General in Syria.

You will observe that Colonel Rose explains the part which the Druse Sheik Abuneked had in the proceedings of Selim Bey near Deir-el-Kammar, and denies positively that any money whatever has been paid or settlement effected with any portion of the Maronites on account of the property taken from them by the Druses. As this assertion is in direct contradiction with the communication made by his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Representatives of the Five Powers, at their last conference with the Ottoman Ministers, I am entitled to expect an explanation from his Excellency, for the instruction of my Government and the regulation of my own conduct.

You will have the goodness to state what precedes, with all due consideration, to Sarim Effendi, and to report to me the exact terms of his Excellency's reply.

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 99.

Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.

(Extract.)

Beirut, September 27, 1842.

IT causes me, I may venture to say, unmingled surprise, that Sarim Effendi should have made to your Excellency and your colleagues the statements which your Excellency does me the honour to convey to me at the close of your despatch No. 17. I am pained to state they are devoid of all foundation for the Christians have not even heard of the examination and judicial settlement of their losses, nor have they even heard of the appropriation of 25,000 purses to their liquidation.

Inclosure 3 in No. 99.

M. Pisani to Sir Stratford Canning.

Excellence,

Péra, 10 Octobre, 1842.

J'AI communiqué à Sarim Effendi les instructions de votre Excellence en date d'aujourd'hui, ainsi que les extraits des dépêches y renvoyées.

Son Excellence Sarim Effendi, après avoir entendu la lecture des trois pièces, m'a fait la réponse suivante :

" Il est certain que j'ai dit dans la conférence à MM. les Représentans des Cinq Puissances, et encore plus que cela, que je leur ai montré une dépêche de son Excellence le Seraskir Pacha qui nous marquait que sur les propriétés enlevées par les Druses aux Maronites, il avait déjà recouvré des biens pour la valeur d'environ 20 000 livres, lesquelles, après avoir été judiciairement prouvées avoir appartenu au tel et au tel, ont été restituées aux propriétaires, qui, les ayant pris, ont donné des reçus. J'ai ajouté que son Excellence avait envoyé à la Porte les reçus en original, au nombre de quatre-vingt-quatre, et j'ai même montré ces reçus dans la conférence. M. l'Ambassadeur avouera que, si par impossible, Mustapha Pacha n'a pas écrit la vérité, et nous a envoyé des reçus faux, il aura nous trompé, non pas moi seulement, mais les Ministres Ottomans présents à la conférence, et le Sultan lui-même; ce qui est de toute impossibilité de la part d'un personnage qui, durant toute sa carrière, a donné de nombreuses preuves de sa fidélité et d'une droiture rare. Son

Excellence Sir Stratford Canning a cru à la communication que j'ai faite, il ne doit pas cesser de croire à la vérité du rapport de Mustapha Pacha, en ajoutant foi aux avis contraires qu'il vient de recevoir. Comme Mustapha Pacha a envoyé les reçus en original à Constantinople pour être enregistrés à la Porte et renvoyés en Syrie, ces reçus seront immédiatement renvoyés à Mustapha Pacha si j'apprends qu'on ne les lui a pas déjà renvoyés. Sir Stratford Canning n'a qu'à écrire au Colonel Rose de demander à voir les reçus en original entre les mains de Mustapha Pacha.

Ma réponse à cette partie des deux pièces que vous venez de me communiquer, qui est relative au même sujet, est la même que celle que je viens de vous faire. MM. les Représentans n'ont qu'à écrire à leurs Consuls respectifs de demander à voir les reçus en original. Quant aux moyens d'intimidation qu'on représente encore comme ayant été employés par Selim Bey et par d'autres, tout ce que nous savons, c'est que de pareils moyens n'ont jamais été employés; que Selim Bey n'est offert à être jugé et sévèrement puni s'il est convaincu d'avoir employé de pareils moyens pour extorquer des signatures, et que Mustapha Pacha lui-même a demandé à être jugé avec les Consuls.

Telle a été, M. l'Ambassadeur la réponse de son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de la Sublime Porte, que je m'empresse de vous transmettre.

J'ai l'honneur, &c.,
(Signé) FRED PISANI

Inclosure 4 in No. 99.

M. Pisani to Sir Stratford Canning.

(Extract.)

Péra, 13 Octobre, 1842.

SARIM EFFENDI a pris des informations au sujet des propriétés rendues aux Maronites; ces propriétés consistent d'abord principalement en terres et en villages; et puis il y a des chevaux, des mulets, des bœufs, différentes petites sommes d'argent, des arbres fruitiers, des maisons, &c.

Parmi les signatures des reçus, il y a Abdallah Chéhab qui a repris le produit d'un village, Ezzan Chéhab, un champ, Hatan Nahon, un champ, Saliman Hamadi, procureur d'Emir Bechir Chéhab, a pris deux villages pour son commettant.

No. 100.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 228.)

My Lord,

Buyukderé, October 28, 1842.

AFTER the arrival of the last post from Vienna, Monsieur de Kletzi placed in my hands a despatch from Prince Metternich on the subject of Syria. It expressed a decided adherence to the opinion formerly declared by his Highness, and stated at some length the grounds of that opinion. Sarim Effendi told M. Pisani soon after, that Prince Metternich had written word that the Porte would be left at liberty to do as she liked. This statement of his Excellency's I communicated to Monsieur de Kletzi, who assured me that Prince Metternich's instruction to him contained no such expression, but that Sarim Effendi's notion was founded upon what had been reported by the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna; and it would certainly appear, that the Prince's language had been such as to convey to a sanguine mind, that the Porte had little or nothing to apprehend from the consistency with which she adhered to her former opinion.

I mention these circumstances to your Lordship, because I conceive them to be pregnant with much that calls for consideration.

They show what little value the Turkish Ministers place upon mere unsupported advice, though coming from the most distinguished quarter.

They also show, that whatever may be the final opinion of the Powers, it is advisable to announce it to the Porte, after due consultation and by common accord.

They finally show, that the Representatives at Constantinople must act in such a manner, if the separate opinions of the Cabinets are prematurely made known to the Turkish Ambassadors abroad.

I am informed that the Maronite deputies who came to Constantinople some time ago with petitions to the Porte, and who intended to embark for Beyrout in the last steam-packet, remain here still, through fear of being persecuted on their return.

I can obtain no satisfactory information on the subject of the receipts exhibited by Sarim Effendi, as evidence of property restored to the amount of 20,000 or 25,000 purses.

I have, &c.,
Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

No. 101

Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 6.)

(No. 230.)

My Lord,

Beyruteré, November 17, 1842

REFERRING to your Lordship's despatches concerning the affairs of Syria, I have to state, that I waited on Sarim Effendi, yesterday, for the express purpose of bringing the whole question once more under his immediate and serious consideration.

I communicated, in substance, to his Excellency, the principal parts of your Lordship's instruction No. 127, apprising him of the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government had learnt the decision of the Porte as to every point in discussion, excepting that which related to the internal administration of Mount Lebanon, and declaring that the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon that one remaining point was still unabaken, and their expectation of its being finally conceded by the Sultan unabated.

I found, in the outset, no difference in the language of Sarim Effendi from that which had been used on former occasions by himself and his colleagues in office. He repeated, that the Turkish Cabinet, which best knew its own interests, could not adopt the advice of the European Powers with a view to its interests; that there was a just cause for its refusing their proposal, but of simply adhering to its own well-founded view of the subject; and that the language addressed by Prince Metternich to Akif Effendi, at Vienna, proved how little the Allied Courts were disposed to take offence at such a line of conduct. In short, it was evident, that unless the Porte saw reason to apprehend the displeasure of the Allied Powers, there was no better prospect than before, of her consenting to assign the local administration of Mount Lebanon to a Druse and a Christian Emir.

To this consideration, therefore, I particularly addressed myself, and avoiding any expressions which might be taken as menacing or unfriendly, I denied in positive terms, on the authority of Prince Metternich's own statement, as shewn to me by M. de Kietzl, the language attributed to that Minister; and I also made a full communication to Sarim Effendi of the closing paragraph of your Lordship's instruction, urging upon him the motives and the determination so unequivocally declared therein, and expressing my unfeigned astonishment at the forgetfulness which the Porte had displayed, of all that Her Majesty's friendship and Her Majesty's arms had effected in Syria, for the advantage of the Sultan and his Empire.

I had the satisfaction to find that my frank and warm expostulation was not entirely thrown away upon Sarim Effendi. He said that the Porte was deeply sensible of the services rendered to her by Great Britain; that he was desirous to know the real sentiments and wishes of the British Government, and that they would have more weight than those of any other Power in the

councils of his Sovereign. His Excellency added, that he was not empowered to come to any present conclusion with me upon the subject under discussion, but that his duty was confined for the moment to collecting the opinions of the several Cabinets, and that they would be taken into consideration after the return of Mustapha Pasha, who had arrived at Rhodes, and was expected from day to day at Constantinople.

Under these circumstances, I did not think it advisable to provoke a lengthened and angry discussion. It was better I thought, to rest upon the declaration which I had already made, affirming, however, at the same time, that the opinions of the Five Cabinets were uniform and invariable upon the subject of the Syrian settlement, and appealing to the recent occurrences in Mount Lebanon, for proofs of the soundness of their views with respect to the tranquillity of that district. Instead of tranquillity, I said, a fresh insurrection had broken out; the promised restitution of property had turned out to be a mere illusion; and, so far from the existing state of things having been maintained, according to the assurances given by the Porte, an attempt to disarm the Druses, and other confiscations of their property, and the seizure of their Chiefs and strong places, had produced the effect of uniting all parties in resistance to the authority of the Sultan. Sarim Effendi could only reply, that the Porte had not yet received accounts of the military incidents, to which I referred, that, in spite of appearances, an effectual restitution of property had taken place to a very considerable amount; and that the coercive measures now complained of had been adopted before our last conference.

Such, my Lord, are the principal features of my interview with Sarim Effendi on the subject of Syria. I am just informed that Mustapha Pasha is arrived at Constantinople. I shall take an early opportunity of communicating with him, and proposing to my colleagues another concerted step to establish the uniformity of our instructions, and to overcome whatever may remain of the Porte's aversion to our proposals.

I have already spoken of the Austrian instructions as having been communicated to me by Monsieur de Kietzl. Your Lordship is aware of their purport.

The Prussian Chargé d'Affaires has also placed in my hands the instruction addressed to him by Baron Bülow. It is clearly and energetically expressed in favour of the object recommended by Her Majesty's Government.

Monsieur de Kietzl informs me that he has not received any direct instruction concerning the affairs of Mount Lebanon, directly from St. Petersburg, but that he is prepared to act in concert with me upon the suggestions which he has received from Baron Brunnow, in strict conformity, as it appears, with your Lordship's sentiments and instructions.

With respect to the French Minister, I only know, but not from himself, that after the receipt of instructions from Monsieur Guizot, by the present steam packet of the 4th, he called upon Sarim Effendi, and made an attempt, not the less praiseworthy for being unsuccessful, to carry the Syrian question with the advantage of having received the earliest intimation of your Lordship's views, as well as of those entertained by his own Government. Since the arrival of the next steam-packet, on the 14th instant, he has written me word privately, that he is in possession of the result of Monsieur de St. Aulaire's communications with your Lordship on that subject, and I have no doubt that when we next meet he will afford me the satisfaction of ascertaining in a more tangible manner, that his instructions are as completely similar to mine, as I am led by his private intimation to suppose.

Meanwhile, it is evident that the actual state of affairs in Syria affords the strongest motives for bringing the whole question to a speedy and definitive settlement. I am not, however, in possession of the most recent advices, a gentleman charged with Colonel Rose's despatches having reached the Dardanelles, but from some unexplained cause having neither brought or sent them on to Constantinople. I learn, however, in confidence, from one of the Maronite Patriarch's agents, that a convention has really been made between the Druse and Christian Emirs, founded upon the restitution of property by the former, and the common intention of excluding the Turkish Authorities from the Mountain.

I need not assure your Lordship that I am fully alive to the importance of continuing to dissuade the Chiefs of Mount Lebanon from resorting to hostilities; and, under this impression I shall avail myself of the steam-boat which sails for Beyrout the day after tomorrow, to inform Colonel Rose of the improving prospect here, and, by his means and those of his colleagues, to prevail upon the leaders of each party to rest their cause exclusively upon the exertions and sincerity of the Allies.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

P.S. November 18.

P.S.—M. de Bouténeff has this moment called to show me an instruction to his interpreter, prepared for communication to the Porte, on the subject of Mount Lebanon and its affairs. He prefers sending it in before his interview with Sir Edmund. It is expressed in satisfactory terms, and he is ready to join with me and our mutual colleagues, in taking any further step which may be found necessary.

S. C.

No. 102

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning

(No. 158.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 19, 1842

It appears from Colonel Rose's reports, that Omar Pasha has confiscated the whole of the property of Sheik Naaman Ibrahim and of his brothers Sheik Said and Sheik Ibrahim. Her Majesty's Government are not sufficiently acquainted with the grounds on which Omar Pasha has acted, to be able to form any decided opinion whether in the case of Sheik Naaman and Said, so harsh a measure was necessary. They may or may not have committed offences which called for such a degree of punishment, and, in either case, Her Majesty's Government might have taken to interfere in their behalf, lest by so doing they should be themselves open to the imputation of interfering to reverse the internal administration of Turkey. But the case is different with regard to Sheik Ibrahim, whose youth and residence in England preclude the possibility of his having committed any crimes against the authority of the Sultan, which should lead to the confiscation of his property. Your Excellency will therefore have the goodness to call the attention of the Turkish Government to the manifest injustice of inflicting upon Sheik Ibrahim the punishment to which his brothers have been subject.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN

No. 103

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received, December 22.)

(No. 235.)

My Lord,

Buylukderé, November 26, 1842.

THE latest advices from Syria, which only come down to the end of October, have not entirely confirmed the intelligence which I had previously derived from other sources. It appears that although the Druses had attacked and routed with loss a small body of Turkish infantry, sent to suppress them, and that others of that nation, in concert with some Greek Christians, had attacked with equal success a yet smaller body of the same troops, the Seraskier had acted with so much unusual boldness as to try to surround the growing revolt, and to afford immediate assistance for its further display. It also appears, that although the apprehension of a common danger

had occasioned some friendly communications between the Druse and Christian Chiefs, this return of good feeling between them had not ripened into a complete and formal agreement, nor was it more than conjectured that a general insurrection might eventually break out in the Mountain. Enough, however, remains of suspicion and apprehension as to the probable consequences of miracle on the one side, and of despair on the other, to give a deep interest to the course which is likely to be pursued by the Turkish Government, now that the Seraskier is returned to Constantinople, and that the expected instructions have been received by the Representatives of the Five Powers.

I need not assure your Lordship of my own anxiety to bring that long-pending question of Syria to an immediate as well as a satisfactory conclusion; and I am happy to add, that my colleagues, acting under instructions similar to mine, are unanimous in directing their efforts to the same object.

In several ways not one of us have omitted to inform the Turkish Ministry of the invariable opinion entertained by our respective Cabinets in favour of the re-establishment of a national administration in Mount Lebanon. Your Lordship is already made acquainted with the substance and the result of my oral communications to Sarim Effendi upon that subject. It remains for me to state that in a meeting held at my house on the 23rd instant, it was agreed that a conference, similar to that of September the 14th, should be proposed to the Porte; not, indeed, with the view of entering into a fresh discussion, but for the purpose of declaring in the most impressive manner that decision of the Five Cabinets which we have already in confidence intimated to Sarim Effendi. Such a demonstration of perfect unanimity and perseverance in the same opinion was more particularly recommended to our adoption, in consequence of our discovering, on mutual explanation, that there was reason to suspect the Turkish Ministers of seeking to divide us.

For the conference thus agreed upon I have applied officially, at the request of my colleagues, to Sarim Effendi, and, judging from his Excellency's reply, no objection will be made to our proposal, though some few days may elapse before the time of meeting is actually appointed. It is our present intention to leave with the Turkish Ministers a short but decided statement of our joint opinion, together with the principal grounds upon which it rests. We agree in the conviction that such a term of peace, offered the best chance of success; but I have declined the proposed honour of presenting a single statement in the name of all; conceiving that our unanimity being clearly established, a separate expression of our opinions will be most consistent with the principles upon which we have hitherto acted in the affairs of Syria.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

No. 104

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 22.)

(No. 239.)

My Lord,

Buylukderé, November 26, 1842

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch which I addressed on the 19th instant to Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria.

In the present very uncertain state of affairs both there and here, I cannot recommend any other course than that which I have pointed out to Colonel Rose. It appears to me that the greatest possible service to be rendered to the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, at the present juncture, is to obtain an early settlement of its affairs at the Porte. To this permanent object the exertions of my colleagues and myself are now directed with an improved prospect of success. In the event of a fresh disappointment, I cannot conceal from myself that it will be desirable to consider the embarrassment to which

the Consuls at Beyrout are exposed, and to agree as to some joint line of conduct which may be suited to the occasion, and calculated to place them more in harmony with the altered aspect of affairs,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Enclosure in No. 104

Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose

2017

Beyukdere, November 18, 1842.

I LAMENT, although I am by no means surprised to hear, that an insurrectionary agreement has been concluded between a number of the Druses and Christian Emirs of Mount Lebanon, with the view of opposing an active resistance to the troops and authority of the Sultan.

What I have learnt in part from you, has been confirmed to me with additional circumstances by other correspondents, as well as by the communications of some of my colleagues here, and also of the agent of the Maronite Patriarch.

Your latest despatches have not reached me, but I am informed that Mr. Bennet, to whom you had consigned them, arrived several days ago at the Dardanelles.

The Seraskier arrived at Constantinople yesterday, and brought despatches from M. Bashi to the Russian Envoy, but as you wrote by Mr Basset, I presume that you had nothing to forward to me by his Excellency. As it appears that the spirit of

As it appears that the spirit of active resistance now manifested by many of the House and Maronite chiefs is, in part, attributable to their despair of obtaining redress by means of our negotiations here, I am anxious to inform you, with the least practicable delay, that the instructions recently received, as well by myself as by my superior, all being as such as to afford no ground for hope that we shall succeed in effecting an agreement, the Turkish Government are obtaining for the present, at least, that form of local administration to which they are so abominably attached.

I trust that the knowledge of this circumstance, and of the hope which I feel upon it, may have a considerable effect in tripping all the obstacles and hindrances which mean the population of Aboriginals and in secret and constant communication to that effect from you in concert with your language, even by your own tribe powers and the ecclesiastical and prophetic reference to that tribe course of conduct which you have so often and so zealously inculcated

I am, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

No. 105

Sir Strafford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 22.)

(No 242.)

My Lord,

Buyukdery. November 26, 1842

REFERRING to your Lordship's instruction, No. 183, I may con-
 sciously affirm, that I have made every reasonable exertion to obtain an
 equitable settlement of the Emir El-Kassim's claims. On several and fre-
 quent occasions, I have applied to Saïd Pâa for the restoration of his
 property for payment of his salary and for the release of his temporary slave
 and for the transfer of his cause from Beyrout to
 Constantinople. In some cases my application has been attended with
 success, in others it has only produced a promise. My last application
 on his behalf, was to have the order for inquiry into his claim and restoring

his property, executed here. The answer of Sarim Effendi was, that my demand was in opposition to a decree of the Musti, and that the Sultan's firman must take its course at Beyrout.

His claims are said to be exaggerated; and the charge is probably not destitute of truth.

In consequence of your Lordship's instruction, I have again applied to Serim Effendi, and I have sent to El-Kassim himself for a statement of his claims and of the amount, if any, paid on account of them.

As soon as I obtain his answer, and a more distinct one from Sarim Effendi, I will again address your Lordship upon the subject.

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

No. 106

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 22.)

(No. 244. Confidential)

My Lord,

Buğakdere, November 28, 1842.

BY intelligence derived from a secret source, upon which I have, hitherto, found reason generally to rely, I learn that the Turkish Ministers have made up their minds to give way upon the remaining point of the Syrian question. For your Lordship's satisfaction I have endeavoured to obtain a confidential admission of this intention from Sarim Effendi. The attempt has not been quite successful, but his Excellency's language, on your Lordship's part, by the accompanying report of it, is by no means unfavourable. The allusion to your Lordship's communications with the Turkish Ambassador in London requires explanation from Sarim Effendi. I am not aware of anything to account for it in your Lordship's instructions to me. I can only conjecture, that the Porte may have it in contemplation to obtain the establishment of a Turkish military post in Mount Lebanon, between the Druses and the Maronites. Though your Lordship may remember that I threw out this idea, as a facility for arrangement, in one of my former despatches, I have been careful not to let it attract the expectation of it in the present stage of our proceedings. I observed, however, at our late meeting, that Monsieur de Bourqueney took occasion to declare that, in the opinion of his Court, such a measure might not improperly be adopted.

(Signed) **STRATFORD CANNING**

Inclosure in No. 106

Report from M. Plesch to Sir Stratford Canning

(Confidentielle)

27 Novembre, 1942

"LA conférence demandée," dit Sarim Effendi, "ne saurait avoir lieu avant une semaine; aujourd'hui et demain je ne vais pas à la Porte. Il n'y aura de conseil que jeudi. Après cela, il faudra mettre sous les yeux du Sultan la proposition faite." Dites à Sir Stratford Canning qu'au lieu de presser qu'il y ait quelque chose de déférence aux Cinq Puissances, en différant la décision qu'il croit plutôt que ce délai est dans leur intérêt même. Dites à M. l'Ambassadeur, que moi aussi je suis convaincu que la Porte ferait bien de terminer toutes les affaires qui sont sur le tapis. L'Empereur se propose de développer toutes les relations avec les Russes, et de ne pas faire de concessions à l'Angleterre. Mais si elle veut quelque chose qui lui convienne, elle peut s'en procurer.

J'ai demandé quelque information là-dessus, mais Sarim Effendi m'a dit seulement que la Porte a reçu il y a peu de jours des lettres d'Ali Effendi, et que probablement il aura une entrevue avec votre Excellence avant la conférence.

Je n'ai pu rien apprendre de plus, quoique en général le langage de Sarim Effendi m'ait paru satisfaisant.

(Signed) FRED. PISANI.

No. 107.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning

(No. 1.)

Foreign Office, January 6, 1843.

Sir,

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatches from No. 234, of the 2nd November, to No. 246 of the 28th November, both inclusive and one, marked confidential, of the 30th of the same month, and I have to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your conduct with reference to the several matters reported in those despatches.

The Turkish Ambassador in this country has communicated to me the substance of the note addressed to your Excellency by the Reis Effendi, on the 7th of December, announcing the acquiescence of the Porte in the wishes of the Allied Cabinets, respecting the future government of Syria, and I conclude that I shall receive, in a few days, your Excellency's despatches through Malta, giving an account of what may have taken place previously to the consent of the Porte being thus signified to you. Meanwhile, I have only to say that Her Majesty's Government have received this intelligence with great satisfaction.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN

No. 108

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)

(No. 248.)

Beyrout, December 7, 1842

My Lord,

I HAVE much satisfaction in stating to your Lordship that, in compliance with the advice of the Allied Powers and the urgent solicitations of their respective representatives, the Turkish Government has at length agreed its intention of restoring Mount Lebanon to the benefits of a local native administration.

The accompanying copy of an official note, which I have this moment received from Sarim Effendi, will inform your Lordship of the manner in which the Porte has expressed its decision.

As the steam packet destined for Malta is on the eve of departure, I have not time to make any observation upon its contents, which, in point of opinion, and in some respects of assertion also, are greatly at variance with our latest advices from Syria. Still less is it in my power to have any explanations upon the subject, either with the Turkish Minister or with my colleagues.

Your Lordship will perceive that the members of the Shehab family are expressly excluded from the number of those amongst whom the Kaimakams of Aasand Pasha, or the local Druse and Christian Governors, are to be selected.

Considering the very critical state of affairs in Mount Lebanon, and the increasing danger which still threatens the tranquillity of that district, and the Sultan's authority there, I deem it of the highest importance to transmit the intelligence of the Porte's concession, without a moment's delay, to

Colonel Rose, and I have only to regret that, in order to effect this object, I am compelled to send off my despatches without previously communicating with the other Representatives.

As a regular opportunity of communicating with Beyrout, by steam, will occur in ten days, any inconvenience attached to so brief and hurried a notice, as that to which I am now limited will not be of long duration.

Sarim Effendi's note is founded upon the application which, at the request of my colleagues, I had made to him for a conference, in their name as well as my own; and I have reason to believe, that the tendency of the Porte to give way to the reiterated notices of the Five Powers, were mainly confirmed and accelerated by the declaration, founded on your Lordship's instruction, which I submitted, confidentially, through Sarim Effendi, to the Council, at its sitting last week. The knowledge that England insisted upon the execution of her engagement given, under the sanction of the Porte, to the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, could not fail of producing a most forcible, and, as it has proved, a decisive, effect.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure in No. 108

Sarim Effendi to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sublime Porte,

Monseigneur l'Ambassadeur, Le 4 Zilkaddé, 1258, d'H (7 Décembre, 1842)

J'AI lu avec attention la traduction de l'instruction donnée en date du 23 Novembre à M. Pisani, premier interprète de l'Ambassade Britannique, et dont la copie m'a été remise par celui-ci.

Votre Excellence m'exprime dans cette instruction le désir d'avoir une conférence avec moi, conjointement avec Messieurs ses collègues, à l'effet de me faire connaître dans toute leur étendue, les dispositions des Grandes Puissances, à l'égard de la question du Liban.

Désireux moi-même d'avoir une entrevue avec vous et de vous faire savoir, aussi promptement que possible, mon intention à ce sujet, je me suis en pressé de donner communication au Ministère de Sa Hautesse, des vœux manifestés par les Grandes Puissances à l'égard de la question précitée, et dont j'ai pris connaissance par les explications et les observations qui ont été faites dans les conférences que j'ai eu l'honneur d'avoir précédemment avec votre Excellence et Messieurs le Baron de Bunsen, le Comte de Klenau, ainsi que par la lecture des articles qui ont été publiés sur ce sujet de la part de votre Excellence M. de Bouteneff et M. Wagner.

Dans un Conseil Ministériel, auquel a assisté le Seraskir Pacha, cette question ayant été débattue, celui-ci a été constamment tenu renfermé dans les limites des communications et des observations que jusqu'à présent il n'avait cessé de présenter à la Sublime Porte.

Mustapha Pacha s'est déclaré être pleinement convaincu, que la mesure de nomination par le Moukhir de Saida de deux Kaimakams, l'un pour les Druses et l'autre pour les Maronites, précédemment arrêtée, pour assurer la tranquillité si unanimement désirée de la Montagne, ne pourrait attendre ce but, que lorsque ces Kaimakams seraient pris parmi les étrangers, en même temps qu'il a assuré d'une manière formelle et positive, que cette tranquillité ne pourrait être obtenue dans le cas où l'on voudrait, au contraire, s'arrêter au parti de prendre les dits Kaimakams parmi les Druses et les Maronites eux-mêmes.

Le Ministère Ottoman éprouve le plus vif regret de voir que ce point de cette question ait donné lieu à tant de discussions et de pourparlers depuis un an, et que, malgré la bonne administration qu'il est parvenue à rétablir dans la Montagne, et les preuves convaincantes qu'il est à même de produire à l'appui de son assertion, les Hautes Puissances ses amies et alliées n'aient jamais changé de vues à cet égard.

La Sublime Porte, mûe néanmoins par les sentiments de respect dont elle ne cesse pas un seul instant d'être animée à l'égard des Cinq Grandes Pui-

sances, ses plus chères amies et alliées, a préféré, pour arriver à la solution d'une question si délicate, et qui est en même temps une de ses affaires intérieures, se conformer à leurs vœux, plutôt que d'y opposer du refus.

Il est évident, toutefois, que la vue de la Sublime Porte et celle des Grandes Puissances, ne tendant l'une et l'autre qu'à un même objet,—le rétablissement du bon ordre dans la Montagne,—celui des systèmes proposés par les deux parties qui eut été adopté, n'aurait dû être considéré, en premier lieu, que comme un essai.

Si ce résultat peut être obtenu à l'aide de ce système, le vœu de la Sublime Porte en sera accompli, et elle ne pourra qu'en être reconnaissante; mais si, comme c'est le cas de le croire, d'après les informations successivement recueillies jusqu'ici, la tranquillité ne pouvant être rétablie en Syrie, dans ce cas-là, la justice des objections faites jusqu'à présent par la Sublime Porte serait évidente au regard et le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse se trouverait, de l'aveu de tout le monde, avoir été dans son droit.

En conséquence, la Sublime Porte, dans son désir de se conformer aux conseils amicaux qui lui sont donnés par ses amis, a pris la résolution d'envoyer à Essad Pacha, l'ordre de procéder, quant à l'administration des différentes classes de sujets qui habitent le Mont Liban placé sous sa juridiction, au choix et à la nomination de deux Kaimakams, l'un pour les Druses et l'autre pour les Maronites, pris parmi les indigènes autres que ceux appartenant à la tribu de Chehab, conformément à la mesure déjà acceptée par les Grandes Puissances, et de l'engager en même temps à consacrer tous ses soins, au maintien de la tranquillité en Syrie.

Cette résolution de la part du Ministère Ottoman, ayant aussi obtenu la sanction Impériale de Sa Hautesse, je crois de mon devoir d'annoncer à votre Excellence que cette question a reçu sa solution, sans avoir recours à de nouvelles conférences.

En me félicitant d'être l'organe des sentimens d'amitié et de respect dont Sa Hautesse mon Auguste Maître et Souverain vient de donner, en cette occasion, une nouvelle preuve, à l'égard des Cinq Grandes Puissances, je vous prie, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, de recevoir les assurances de ma considération très distinguée.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,
(Signé) SABİM.

No. 109

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)

(No. 251.)

My Lord,

Beşikdarı, December 17, 1842.

I HAVE already informed you that the Syrian Question is settled in so far as it depends upon the Porte's assent to the propositions contained in your Lordship's instructions.

I have now the satisfaction to add, that my despatch, announcing this important intelligence to Lieutenant-Colonel Rose, went on from Smyrna without an hour's delay, in Her Majesty's steam-veasel "Devastation," and there is every reason to presume that it reached Beyrout on the morning of the 12th instant.

The news which I have recently received from Syria of fresh intrigues, of fresh conflicts, and of fresh acts of violence and cruelty in the Mountain to so late a date as the 9th instant, satisfy me that I did not err in hastening to apprize Colonel Rose of the success which had finally crowned our exertions here. Most earnestly I hope that the intelligence so long expected, may have the effect of restoring tranquillity. Judging from Colonel Rose's account of the good, though momentary effect produced by my preceding communication of the course to be pursued under your Lordship's more recent instructions, I venture to entertain that hope with some degree of confidence. The policy and personal disposition of Assad Pacha appear to be more conciliatory than those

of his predecessor, the Seraskier; and the influence of Her Majesty's Consul-General and his colleagues may be reasonably expected to derive strength from the concession of the Porte, as well towards the Pasha as towards the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon.

The employment of Albanian troops in the heart of the Mountain, though in direct violation of the Porte's engagement, and accompanied with the usual horrors, may find some degree of palliation in the extremities to which the Turkish authority was reduced, and in the failure of all attempts to conciliate the Druses then actually in arms.

I return to our proceedings here. Inclosed with this despatch are copies of my reply to Sarim Effendi's letter, and of two instructions which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria, the second in concert with my colleagues in the Syrian Question. We held a meeting together some days ago at my house; and, after communicating our several impressions on the subject, decided upon writing to the Turkish Minister, and also to the Consuls at Beyrout in the sense of what I have expressed in the accompanying papers. It is particularly gratifying to state that the utmost harmony prevailed in the expression of our respective sentiments, and that the principles of unanimity and uniformity were admitted by all without exception to be the true basis of our action and of our strength.

The only shade of difference worthy of notice or of recollection, was a desire expressed by the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires to mark in rather pointed terms our conditional acquiescence in the exclusion of the Shehab family, and the absence of any participation on our part in that decision. Monsieur Kletzl's acquaintance with the Turkish language enabled him to allege that the passage in Sarim Effendi's letter relating to that point, intimated more strongly than in the translation, that we had assented to the exclusion of the Shehaba. However that may be, I confess that for one I was governed by what is due to the main object of our oft-repeated and long-protracted efforts in favour of Mount Lebanon and the mass of its inhabitants. We all agreed that our instructions did not admit of our opening a fresh discussion with the Porte on behalf of any single family or individual, and that we should weaken the chances of re-establishing tranquillity in Syria if we held out to the excluded family and its partisans the slightest ground or hope that its restoration to power would still become an object of interest to our respective Governments. This view of the matter prevailed to such a degree, that when I finally suggested, as a middle term, that while we kept silence as to the Shehaba in our answer to Sarim Effendi, we should make a separate and verbal disclaimer to his Excellency of our participation in what concerned that family, the French and Russian Representatives agreed in thinking that even so quiet and confidential an invitation as this would in all probability transpire, and occasion the very mischief which we were all desirous to avoid.

Your Lordship will observe that in my own reply to Sarim Effendi's letter, I have endeavoured, though with very imperfect success, to reconcile the silence which is requisite to avoid that danger, with the eventual disappointment of our present hopes, by recording the actual disturbed state of Mount Lebanon, as a point of departure for the experiment, as Sarim Effendi describes it, of a recurrence to the old principles of government in that district; and intimating that we are neither blind to the source of the present disorders, nor inclined to be passive spectators of any insidious attempt to render the measure now adopted practically abortive.

I trust that the recapitulation in one official document of the various promises successively made by the Porte in favour of Syria, at the requisition of the Allied Powers, either with or without the participation of France, may prove conducive to the one grand object of realizing, to the practical advantage of its inhabitants, those benevolent views which actuate the principal Powers of Christendom in their joint dealings with this Empire.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 109.

Sir Stratford Canning to Serim Effendi.

Monsieur le Ministre,

Buyukderé, December 15, 1842.

LA conférence que M. Pissani vous avait demandée, tant de ma part que de celle des Représentans d'Autriche, de France, de Prusse, et de Russie devenant en effet sans objet dès que votre Excellence était à même de m'informer que la Sublime Porte avait adoptée une résolution conforme aux vœux des Puissances ses amies.

La lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser le 7 courant, m'annonce cet heureux résultat de nos communications précédentes; et je me félicite d'être l'organe de transmettre à ma Cour un aussi éclatant témoignage de la bienveillance qui préside dans les pensées de Sa Hauteur. Mon Gouvernement se réjouira avec plaisir que la Porte, en prenant la décision de placer le Mont Liban sous l'administration d'un Chef Chrétien pour les Maronites, et d'un Chef Druse pour les Druses, a voulu surtout manifester sa confiance dans l'amitié des Cinq Cours, et sa déférence à leur opinion. Entourée de leurs sympathies, et forte de leurs conseils, elle s'acquiert de nouveaux moyens d'affermir le repos, et avancer les intérêts de son empire.

Il n'est point de regret qui pourrait se présenter à l'esprit satisfait, à cause de certains points que la Porte semble avoir eus pour objet d'effacer, devant la conviction que le succès, de même que l'exécution, de la mesure dépendra principalement de la Porte elle-même. Les derniers incidents de la Syrie ne sont pas de nature à empêcher la reconnaissance d'un mode de gouvernement qui ne peut que profiter à la prévision des Cours Amies, et si par conséquent il n'est pas possible pour ceux qui ont exercé l'autorité souveraine dans ce pays, de ne pas considérer avec reconnaissance sur la cause de ces malheurs, je ne saurais m'abstenir sur l'existence et la gravité des faits.

Il me paraît à regret que l'on ne peut offrir quelque chose de plus satisfaisant. La mesure adoptée par la Porte, et qui a été approuvée par les Cours déjà annoncées par l'ordre de votre Excellence, est la mesure la plus sage et la plus équitable. L'excès des troupes Arabes dans la Syrie, et les vexations des propriétés à une époque où l'on ne peut que se plaindre de l'absence des impôts, et en général la corruption des autorités, se trouvaient consacrés par les associations de la Porte.

L'ensemble de ces mesures sera envisagé par mon Gouvernement, je n'en doute pas, comme un nouveau motif de cordialité entre les deux Cours, comme un droit de plus acquis par la Sublime Porte à la soumission et à la reconnaissance du peuple objet de leur adoption. Que les soins et les qualités du Varchang de Syrie, et la confiance répandue dans son administration, du Sultan, que le choix des gouverneurs appelés du sein des deux nations pour administrer les affaires du Mont Liban, et les besoins des pays, et les Puissances amies de Sa Hauteur n'aient rien à regretter et rien à désirer.

Je profite, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure 2 in No. 109.

Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose.

Sir,

Buyukderé, December 7, 1842.

CONSIDERING the disturbed and critical state of affairs in Syria at the date of your last despatches to me, I think it my duty to apprise you, without the loss of a single moment, that the Ottoman Ministers, acting under the express commands of the Sultan, have at length conceded the remaining point of difference between them and the Representatives of the Five Allied Powers respecting the government of Mount Lebanon.

The Porte's decision has been communicated to me this morning by a note from his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Of this important document I send you a copy herewith for your perusal and confidential information, and also for that of your colleagues the Consular Representatives of the other four Christian Powers at Beyrout, in the event of their not having received a similar communication from their respective Ministers.

You will easily perceive that, although it is highly desirable for the main satisfactory point of intelligence regarding the local administration of the Mountain to be used with a view to the maintenance of whatever degree of tranquillity may still subsist there, the tenor and character of Serim Effendi's note, as a whole, are not such as to make it a fit object of public, or even of more than limited and guarded communication.

The immediate departure of the steam-packet, which enables me to communicate with Sir James Stirling at Smyrna, precludes me at the same time from either obtaining any further explanation of the Porte's decision, or even entering into any consideration of the manner or terms in which it has been announced.

I propose to take the earliest opportunity of addressing you more at length upon this subject, and, in the mean time, I avail myself of this opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches and letters of the 24th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure 3 in No. 109.

Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose.

Sir,

Constantinople, December 14, 1842.

IN writing to you on the 7th instant, I promised a further and more deliberate communication on the subject of the very important document which I then transmitted to you in confidence. The approaching departure of the Austrian steam-packet enables me to redeem my pledge without much delay; and I have now the satisfaction to inform you that my colleagues agree with me in regarding the measure announced in Serim Effendi's letter, as a completion of the Porte's assent to our proposals respecting Syria. We have resolved to accept it in that sense on behalf of our several Courts, and our only remaining anxiety is to secure its prompt execution in the manner best calculated to restore the tranquillity of Syria and to promote the welfare of its inhabitants. Guided by your habitual discretion and local experience, you will no doubt be able to contribute to the attainment of these objects, without exciting the jealousy of the Turkish authorities, or diverting from their Sovereign those sentiments of confidence and gratitude which are now so emphatically due to him from his subjects of Mount Lebanon.

You are by this time already in possession of the letter addressed to me by the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs. A letter expressed in terms almost identical was addressed by his Excellency to each of my four colleagues. I now transmit to you herewith a copy of my answer to Serim Effendi. Though differing in terms, it is similar in purport to the answers sent in respectively by them, and I despair of being able to give you a clearer idea of our united views, as founded upon our common instructions, than by referring you to that correspondence.

There is one point, however, to which I am desirous of calling your more particular attention. The Porte, you will observe, has expressly excluded the Shehab family from the number of those amongst whom a governor of the Maronite population is to be selected. Without entering into the motives of this exception, its justice, or its wisdom, I wish you distinctly to understand that I have decided, in concert with my colleagues, upon the expediency of raising no question either here or in Syria upon the subject. Whatever may be the merits of the family, whatever its claims upon the respect of those whom it governed so long, we recognize no obligation and no right on

the part of the Powers to interfere especially on its behalf; and we cannot be blind to the deep responsibility of leaving any shadow of doubt as to our sentiments, at a time when passions are likely to be roused, and a spirit of intrigue may prevail among the disappointed. We must bear steadily in mind, that the restoration of tranquillity under the enjoyment of this last crowning concession, is the one great object now to be secured.

The motives which have determined this line of conduct might preclude us, in point of consistency, from entering into any discussion with the Porte as to the details of execution, even if we felt ourselves qualified by sufficient information to undertake the task. It is manifest, at the same time, that the result of the Porte's decision will principally depend upon the manner and spirit in which it is carried into effect. The character of Asaad Pasha seems open to favourable impressions, and your friendly intercourse with his Excellency may afford you opportunities of exercising a beneficial and not inconvenient influence on the present occasion. The choice of the individuals to be selected for the government of the Mountain is, no doubt, of the greatest importance. It is most desirable that they should enjoy the general respect, if not the affection and confidence of the people.

But it is also desirable that, without being the mere creatures and tools of the Vizier, they should be alive to the importance of deserving his goodwill, and maintaining the inhabitants of the Mountain in peace with each other, and in lawful obedience to the Sultan.

I have every reason to believe that you will find your colleagues authorized, as well as disposed, to concur with you in pursuing this line of conduct remembering that interference, even limited to the most prudential forms, should be rather the exception than the rule; and that its value will be generally in proportion to the quiet and unobtrusive manner in which it is exercised. What I thus state, with a view to your instruction, has been practised here throughout the whole course of our proceedings relating to Syria, and nothing can be more satisfactory than the uniform and unanimous character which prevails in this last stage of them between my colleagues and myself.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 110

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen — (Received January 9, 1843.)

(No. 253. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Beyrout, December 17, 1842.

PRESERVING, in what I rather hope than believe will eventually prove the final stage of the Syrian Question, that same method which has generally characterized the joint proceedings of the five Representatives here, I have interchanged, confidentially, with my colleagues, the correspondence addressed by each of us to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs and to the respective Consuls at Beyrout. Copies of the French, the Austrian, the Russian, and the Prussian communications are, in consequence, herewith inclosed for the more complete information of Her Majesty's Government.

In my ostensible despatch of this date, I have stated and explained the course which we thought it best to pursue with respect to the exclusion of the Shehab family. Should your Lordship be of opinion that, acting under the pressure of local reasons, we have not sufficiently guarded against any reserved intention which the Porte may entertain on that subject, I would venture to suggest the expediency of a more pointed declaration being made by your Lordship to the Turkish Ambassador in London. Much might be said to him, with a strong, though somewhat tardy effect, which would be wholly free from the inconvenience and risk attending a similar communication made here by the Representatives of the Five Cabinets at this particular juncture. Your Lordship may be assured that, in all which affects the great foreign interests of this country, the voice of England, when used even

to whisper a positive determination, is heard above every sound that reaches the ears of the Turkish Council. I have not thought proper to make a parade of it, but I feel no doubt as to our late success being mainly attributable to the determined tone of your Lordship's latest instruction on the subject of Syria. The only merit to which I can pretend in the matter, is that of having enforced the communication in a suitable form, and at the critical moment, by means of Mr. Ainslie who on this, as on more than one preceding occasion, executed my instructions with a degree of ability, judgment, and vigour, which I am happy to bring under your Lordship's notice. In the present instance I have added more to Sarim Effendi, privately, in addition to my official letter, than what I deem absolutely essential to present in such a situation. The terms of his Excellency's letter are evidently open to more than one part to a suggestion of duplicity, but the appearance may be explained by his natural wish to conceal the termination of proceeding from a position long obstinately maintained, and I think it most prudent under present circumstances, to give him the benefit of that interpretation.

I have not succeeded in ascertaining from him, upon what individuals, or upon what families, the choice of the Porte may be expected to fall in appointing the native Governors, or Kamachins, for Mount Lebanon. In answer to my inquiry, he said, that the selection would be left to Asaad Pasha, and, in truth, I know not that it could be assigned to better hands in the present disturbed state of the country and doubtful position of parties, provided the Pasha be at liberty to act with sincerity, and to lend an ear to the counsels of those who may naturally be supposed to have other means than his of knowing the disposition and real wishes of the inhabitants.

With respect to the renewed employment of the Albanians, which came to my knowledge only yesterday, I have seen in an expression of deep concern and surprise, and I think it by no means unlikely, that the adoption of some joint step, on the part of the Representatives, may be found indispensable.

I have again recommended the restitution of El-Casim's property; I have spoken in favour of a liberal treatment of the Shehab family, in general, now that they are definitely excluded from power; and I have urged the expediency of releasing the prisoners at Acre and Beyrout.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has sent me an assurance, that he will exert himself for the attainment of these objects, but I should not like to be held responsible for the effect of his exertions, even if I could venture to rely upon the sincerity of his assurances.

I have only to add, that in communicating with those persons who may be considered as the partisans of the Shehab family, I have been careful to inculcate the propriety, the expediency, and the duty of their abstaining from any intrigues calculated to create a necessity for its recall to the administration of Mount Lebanon.

Judging from the general tendency of the information, which has reached me, such a necessity is by no means unlikely to occur; and if it were to arise out of the natural order of events, or from the crooked policy of the Porte, counsels more favourable to their pretensions would, no doubt, prevail in proportion as the want of them would be felt. But I am confident, and such is the conviction which I have endeavoured to produce in their minds, that the triumph will ultimately rest with that party which deals most fairly, and abstains, at present, from useless resistance, and mischievous intrigue.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure 1 in No. 110

The Baron de Bourqueney to Sarim Effendi.

Monsieur le Ministre,

Péra, 13 Décembre, 1842.

J'ai reçu la lettre que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser le 7 de ce mois, pour m'annoncer, que prenant en considération les conseils répétés des Puissances amies et alliées de la Sublime Porte, le Gouvernement

de Sa Hautesse s'est décidé à confier l'administration des populations Druse et Maronite du Liban à deux chefs choisis dans le sein de ces populations.

Le rappel des troupes Albanaises de la Syrie, la restitution d'Omar Pacha, la restitution aux Chrétiens des propriétés dont ils ont été dépossédés, et l'allègement des impôts, le libre exercice des devoirs religieux, constituent déjà les premiers engagements qui ont si heureusement rapproché les vues du Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse de celles des Puissances Alliées; mais une divergence fondamentale les sépare encore, et la mesure dont votre Excellence vient de porter l'adoption à ma connaissance, ainsi qu'à celle de mes collègues, en efface jusqu'à la dernière trace.

Je suis heureux de pouvoir affirmer à votre Excellence que le Gouvernement du Roi apprendra avec la plus vive satisfaction, ce nouveau et éclatant témoignage de l'intérêt qu'attache la Sublime Porte à entretenir et à fortifier les liens d'amitié qui l'unissent aux Grandes Puissances de l'Europe.

En se bornant à la défense du principe qui vient de prévaloir dans les conseils de Sa Hautesse, en s'abstenant de toute désignation comme de toute exclusion de noms propres pour l'administration du Liban, le Gouvernement du Roi n'a pas seulement cru faire acte de déférence envers les droits imprescriptibles d'indépendance et de souveraineté de la Sublime Porte, il a compté sur sa haute sagesse pour seconder efficacement l'application par elle et régulière d'un principe désormais hors de question; et c'est avec une joie accrue qu'il la verra entrer ainsi dans les voies les plus propres à faire cesser les tristes collisions dont la Montagne est encore en ce moment le théâtre, et à assurer avec le repos des populations, le maintien et l'affermissement de sa propre autorité souveraine.

Ce double sentiment est celui qui m'a sans cesse animé dans les rapports que j'ai eu l'honneur d'entretenir avec votre Excellence sur ces diverses questions, et en vous remerciant l'expression, je suis heureux d'y ajouter l'assurance de la haute considération avec laquelle, &c.

(Signé)

BOURQUENEY.

Inclusure 2 in No. 110.

The Baron de Bourqueney to M. Bourde, French Consul at Beyrout.

*Ambassade de France à Constantinople.
Péris, 19 Décembre, 1842.*

Monsieur le Consul,

MA dernière dépêche vous faisait présenter la solution prochaine de la question qui s'agite et se débat si laborieusement depuis neuf mois à Constantinople; cette solution a eu lieu, et elle est en tout point conforme aux instructions qui dirigeaient ma conduite ainsi que celle de mes Collègues.

Vous trouverez ci-joint pour votre propre information, copie de la lettre officielle qui vient de m'être adressée par le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, et qui m'annonce que la Porte adhère aux conseils de l'Europe, en consentant à choisir dans le sein des populations Druse et Maronite chacun des chefs appelés à les gouverner sous la surveillance du Pacha de Saida, Essad Pacha. Je joins également à ma dépêche copie de ma lettre responsive au Ministre des Affaires Étrangères.

Vous remarquerez les ménagements que le Gouvernement Ottoman a cru assurer à sa dignité, et surtout à celle de ses agents, en maintenant la supériorité du système d'administration qu'il proposait, et en prenant, pour ainsi dire, le nôtre à l'essai, ce dernier n'en est pas moins acquis aux habitants de la Montagne, et il dépend d'eux aujourd'hui de s'en assurer le bienfait permanent.

Au fond, la Porte a cédé le terrain sur lequel elle luttait depuis la mission de Moustapha Pacha. Elle renonce au gouvernement Turc direct de la Montagne.

Vous savez que le Gouvernement du Roi s'était voué uniquement à la défense du principe qui vient de triompher; il demandait l'administration des Chrétiens par un Chrétien, et des Druzes par un Druse, abstraction faite des familles et des individus. Il applaudira sincèrement à tout choix qui répondrait aux besoins de la situation, et à la difficulté des circonstances.

Maintenez les bons rapports qui se sont déjà établis entre vous et Essad Pacha. J'aime à espérer qu'il ne sera pas au dessous de la tâche importante que lui ont imposée les ordres de son Gouvernement.

Vous vous rappellerez aussi que votre attitude et votre langage avec les habitants du pays doit avoir uniquement pour but en ce moment de préparer l'acceptation, de régulariser l'affermissement du système administratif que leur a rendu la persévérance des efforts de l'Europe, et qui se présente aujourd'hui à eux revêtu de la franche et unanime sanction des Cinq Cours.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,

(Signé)

BOURQUENEY

Inclusure 3 in No. 110.

M. de Kletzi to Sarim Effendi

M. le Ministre,

14 Décembre, 1842.

J'AI reçu la lettre officielle que votre Excellence a fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date du 7 de ce mois, et par laquelle elle a bien voulu me faire connaître la résolution de Sa Hautesse le Sultan d'adresser à Essad Pacha, Gouverneur de Saida, l'ordre de procéder, pour l'administration des différentes classes de sujets qui habitent le Mont Liban placé sous sa juridiction, au choix et à la nomination de deux chefs indigènes, l'un pour les Druzes et l'autre pour les Maronites, et de l'engager en même temps à consacrer tous ses soins au maintien de la tranquillité en Syrie. La lettre de votre Excellence m'ayant été remise le jour même où je devais expédier ma poste, j'ai été heureux de pouvoir l'envoyer sans retard à mon Auguste Cour.

Je crois pouvoir vous assurer d'avance, M. le Ministre, de la véritable satisfaction que Sa Majesté l'Empereur éprouvera en voyant Sa Hautesse le Sultan accéder au vœu que, de concert avec ses augustes Alliés, il lui avait exprimé à l'égard d'une mesure tout dirigée vers la paix intérieure des États Ottomans. Ce qui causera surtout, je n'en doute pas, un vif plaisir à la Cour Impériale, c'est le rétablissement de l'harmonie entre la Sublime Porte et les Cinq Puissances au sujet de cette même mesure dont l'adoption forme la complément de celles qui leur ont été annoncées précédemment par la Sublime Porte, telles que l'allègement des impôts, le rappel des Albanais de la Syrie, et la restitution des biens enlevés aux Chrétiens.

Le système de gouvernement que la Sublime Porte va établir dans le Liban étant conforme aux anciens privilèges, aux mœurs, et aux habitudes de ses habitants, ainsi qu'au vœu unanime des Puissances Alliées, on ne saurait douter qu'il n'ait pour effet de rendre le calme aux populations de la Montagne, aujourd'hui en butte à l'agitation résultant des derniers troubles. On peut être d'autant plus rassuré à cet égard, que la Sublime Porte n'a en vue que l'affermissement de l'ordre et de la tranquillité, et que, dès-lors, elle doit être plus que toute autre, intéressée à ce que le choix des personnes appelées à administrer le Liban soit dirigé vers ce but. Si les Puissances, par respect pour les droits de souveraineté de Sa Hautesse, se sont abstenues de se prononcer sur ce point, elles l'ont fait dans la confiance que la Sublime Porte, en adhérant à leur conseil, saurait trouver pour les Chrétiens de la Montagne un chef Chrétien réunissant les qualités nécessaires pour les gouverner.

Je saisis cette occasion, &c.

(Signé)

KLETZI.

Inclosure 4 in No. 110

M. de Kletzi to M. d'Adelbourg, Austrian Consul at Beyrouth

Monsieur,

19 Décembre, 1842.

J'ai la satisfaction de vous annoncer que la question du Liban se trouve résolue par l'adhésion de la Porte aux conseils que les Puissances lui avaient donnés relativement à la nomination de deux chefs, l'un Maronite et l'autre Druse, qui auraient à gouverner ces deux populations sous la surveillance du Pacha de Salda.

Vous verrez Monsieur par la copie ci-jointe de la lettre officielle que Sami Effendi m'a adressée, ainsi qu'à MM. les Représentants des autres Grandes Puissances, quel mode la Porte a adopté pour mettre à exécution la résolution prise par Sa Hautesse à ce sujet. Vous verrez aussi, par la lecture de ma réponse, dans quel sens j'ai cru devoir m'expliquer envers M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères.

Bien que la Porte allègue qu'elle n'entend prendre qu'à l'essai la mesure conseillée par les Puissances, nous avons tout lieu de croire que c'est là uniquement un moyen de ménager sa dignité et l'amour-propre de quelques uns de ses agens, et qu'elle ne pourra guère revenir sur une décision conforme aux anciens privilèges, aux mœurs, et aux habitudes des populations du Liban, ainsi qu'au vœu unanime des Puissances Alliées. Ces conditions semblent renfermer de si fortes garanties pour l'avenir de la Montagne, que nous aimons à considérer la question comme définitivement résolue.

Les Puissances, en offrant leurs conseils à la Porte dans cette conjoncture, ont jugé convenable de s'abstenir de toute désignation relativement aux familles et aux personnes qui seraient appelées désormais à administrer le Liban. Elles l'ont fait par suite de leur juste égards pour l'indépendance et les droits de souveraineté de la Porte dans une question qu'elle n'a jamais cessé de considérer comme une de ses affaires intérieures, et parce qu'elles n'ont eu vue que le retour et le raffermissement du bon ordre dans la Montagne, sous une administration nationale, soumise et sincèrement dévouée à l'autorité souveraine du Sultan.

C'est vers ce but, Monsieur, que doivent tendre vos efforts réunis à ceux de MM. vos collègues. En vous abstenant de toute ingérence qui pût éveiller chez les autorités locales des doutes sur les intentions éminemment bienveillantes et désintéressées des Puissances Chrétiennes, vous voudrez bien borner votre action à recommander, si le cas l'exige, aux habitants de la Montagne, et notamment au clergé, la concorde et la soumission au gouvernement de Sa Hautesse. Appliquez-vous surtout, Monsieur, à leur faire comprendre que l'Europe ne s'intéresse particulièrement à aucune des familles qui pourraient aspirer au pouvoir, et que les Puissances n'ont visé à autre chose qu'à voir les populations de la Montagne, et surtout les Chrétiens, replacés sous l'administration d'un chef de leur nation et de leur religion.

Le caractère honorable d'Essad Pacha, la sagesse et la modération dont il a fait preuve en toute circonstance offrent une garantie de plus pour l'établissement d'un ordre de choses légal et solide dans le Liban. Veuillez entretenir avec ce digne fonctionnaire les mêmes rapports de confiance que par le passé, et lui prêter votre concours toutes les fois qu'il le réclamera et que vous le jugerez utile à la Porte et aux intérêts légitimes et bien entendus de ses sujets.

Recevez, &c.
Signé) KLETZI.

Inclosure 5 in No. 110.

M. de Titow to Sami Effendi.

M. le Ministre,

Péra, le 15 Décembre, 1842.

J'ai eu l'honneur de recevoir et de porter à la connaissance de ma Cour, la lettre officielle que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser en date du 7 Décembre, sur la question du Liban.

Cette lettre m'annonce la résolution adoptée par la Sublime Porte, à la suite des communications dont j'avais été appelé à m'acquiescer auprès d'elle, de même que MM. les Représentants d'Angleterre, de France, d'Autriche, et de Prusse, pour faire connaître les dispositions unanimes manifestées par ces Cinq Grandes Puissances, en recevant l'appel fait à leur opinion, par le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse, relativement à la question susmentionnée.

La résolution de la Sublime Porte d'accorder des chefs indigènes et distincts aux populations du Liban, placés tous deux sous la juridiction du Gouverneur Supérieur de Sa Hautesse en Syrie, nommément, un chef Chrétien pour les Maronites et un chef Druse pour les Druses, constitue un témoignage trop éclatant de sa déférence amicale aux conseils bienveillants des Puissances amies et alliées, elle forme un complément trop essentiel des concessions parties de la même source et annoncées déjà antérieurement par le Divan, pour que je n'aie éprouvé, pour ma part, la satisfaction la plus vive, en prenant connaissance de cette importante communication de votre Excellence, persuadé comme je le suis d'avance, que c'est avec le même sentiment qu'elle sera accueillie par mon Auguste Cour.

En effet, après avoir consacré préalablement une série de mesures salutaires, savoir le rappel des milices Albanaises de la Syrie, l'éloignement du Gouverneur Omar Pacha, l'allègement des impôts publics, la restitution des propriétés Chrétiennes, le libre exercice du culte, et les réglemens d'administration locale, assurés aux populations du Liban, par des chefs indigènes, la Sublime Porte veut de ses réformes, dans le présent, le plus à désirer et le plus précieux de tous, à savoir, la paix et la tranquillité, et les administrer par ses chefs choisis dans leur sein et professant leur croyance.

L'ensemble de ces mesures ne saurait assurément manquer d'atteindre l'objet principal de la juste sollicitude de la Sublime Porte, à savoir, le maintien de la tranquillité et du bien-être des populations du Liban; car, sans doute, la Sublime Porte, mue par ses dispositions et guidée par sa haute sagesse, s'attachera à veiller à l'exécution scrupuleuse et efficace des mesures prescrites.

On ne saurait d'ailleurs dissimuler que l'opportunité, comme l'urgence de ces mesures, semble avoir été démontrée avec plus d'évidence par les derniers événements survenus dans ces contrées. Aussi il est hors de doute que la Sublime Porte saura, dans sa sage prévoyance, apprécier toute l'importance du choix des chefs qu'il s'agit de nommer. Sous ce rapport, les Puissances se sont abstenues de toute insinuation et de tout manifestation de leur opinion, par une suite de leurs égards et de leur respect pour les droits de souveraineté de Sa Hautesse; mais elles n'en sont pas moins persuadées, que la Sublime Porte aura principalement à cœur à ce que le choix du chef Chrétien pour les populations Chrétiennes du Liban, et du chef Druse pour les Druses, soient dirigés de manière à atteindre efficacement le but salutaire signalé plus haut, savoir d'assurer le maintien de l'ordre et de la tranquillité dans la Montagne, en travaillant par là même au rétablissement solide de la paix, longtemps compromise, de la Syrie toute entière.

C'est ainsi que la Sublime Porte aura la gloire et la satisfaction, d'un côté d'avoir accompli pleinement et généreusement une tâche si conforme aux intentions paternelles et magnanimes de Sa Hautesse envers les populations replacées sous son sceptre, et de l'autre d'avoir cimenté par un gage signalé de plus, les heureux liens d'union, de confiance et d'égards réciproques, qui président à ses rapports avec les Grandes Puissances, ses amies et Alliées.

En me permettant d'exprimer ici les sentimens qui m'animent et que doit m'inspirer la nature aussi favorable qu'importante de la communication de votre Excellence du 7 Décembre, en exprimant également le ferme espoir où je suis de voir les faits répondre à une aussi juste attente, je salue, &c.

(Signé) TITOW.

Inclosure 6 in No. 110.

M. de Titow to M. Basili, Russian Consul at Beyroul.

Monsieur,

Pérs, le 15 Décembre, 1842.

VOUS n'ignorez pas les soins assidus et la vive sollicitude consacrés par le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse et sincèrement partagés par les Cinq Grandes Puissances, ses amies et Alliées, pour assurer le rétablissement de l'ordre et de la tranquillité parmi les populations du Liban. Je me félicite d'avoir à vous annoncer aujourd'hui l'heureux fruit de ces dispositions de la Sublime Porte, secondées par les vœux et les conseils des Puissances, en vous transmettant ci-joint, —

1°. La copie de la lettre officielle que son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, Sarim Effendi, vient de m'adresser en date du 7 Décembre, en même tems qu'à MM. les Représentans d'Angleterre, de France, d'Autriche, et de Prusse, pour faire connaître la résolution adoptée par la Sublime Porte et sanctionnée par Sa Hautesse, de procéder au choix et à la nomination de Chefs indigènes pour les populations de la Montagne, savoir, d'un Chef Chrétien pour les Maronites, et d'un Chef Druse pour les Druses, placés tous deux sous la juridiction du Gouverneur Supérieur de Sa Hautesse en Syrie.

2°. La copie de la réponse, qu'à la suite d'un concert avec MM. mes collègues, j'ai adressée simultanément, et dans une parfaite uniformité de vues et d'intentions avec eux, à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères Ottoman, sous la date du 15 du courant.

Ne doutant pas qu'à leur tour MM. les Consuls, vos collègues, ne reçoivent en même tems des communications analogues de la part de MM. les Représentans des Grandes Puissances à Constantinople, je vous invite à vous entendre également avec eux, pour être à même de bien vous pénétrer de la tâche spéciale que vous avez à remplir dans votre sphère d'action. Il vous appartiendra par conséquent de consacrer, de concert avec MM. vos collègues, tous les soins et efforts en votre pouvoir, pour faire apprécier, dans le cercle de vos relations sur les lieux, toute la haute importance et l'étendue des déterminations bienfaisantes et décisives adoptées par le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse appuyées comme elles le sont par le concours moral des Grandes Puissances, ses amies et Alliées. N'épargnez aucun moyen pour éclairer les esprits, pour apaiser les dissensions intestines, pour inculquer enfin aux populations du Liban, Druses ou Maronites, à tous les habitans de la Syrie en général, les sentimens de gratitude et de soumission, que doivent leur inspirer ces témoignages éclatans des dispositions paternelles de leur Auguste Souverain en leur faveur, et dont ces peuples doivent s'attacher à se montrer dignes par leur dévouement, leur fidélité, et leur empressement à faire taire tout esprit de méintelligence et de parti, et à vivre désormais en paix, jouissant du sort assuré et du mode d'administration les plus conformes à leur bien-être et à leurs vœux.

C'est en vous attachant, Monsieur, à diriger de votre mieux vos soins et vos efforts vers le but que je viens d'indiquer, et en contribuant ainsi à assurer le succès des vues qui n'ont cessé de présider à l'intervention bienveillante des Puissances amies de la Sublime Porte, que vous ne manquerez pas d'acquiescer de nouveaux titres à la haute satisfaction de la Cour Impériale à votre égard.

Recevez, &c.,
(Signé) TITOW.

Inclosure 7 in No. 110.

M. de Wagner to Sarim Effendi.

Monsieur le Ministre,

Constantinople, ce 15 Décembre, 1842.

J'AI vu avec une vive satisfaction par la communication officielle que votre Excellence a bien voulu me faire en date du 7 du courant, que la Sublime Porte, mue par une sage condescendance aux conseils bienveillans des Cinq Puissances ses amies et alliées, vient de donner à la question du Mont Liban une solution conforme à leurs vœux.

Je me suis empressé de porter à la connaissance du Gouvernement du Roi la résolution du Divan, sanctionnée par Sa Hautesse, de confier l'administration du Mont Liban à deux Chefs indigènes, dont l'un pour les Druses et l'autre pour les Maronites, choisis dans le sein de ces deux nations, et relevant de l'autorité supérieure du Pacha de Saïda. Cette mesure, en faisant cesser un provisoire précaire et les désordres qui en ont été la conséquence, joints à la réalisation définitive des assurances déjà données antérieurement par la Sublime Porte du rappel des milices Albanaïses, de la restitution des propriétés enlevées aux Chrétiens, et du libre exercice de leur culte, paraît le plus propre, sinon la seule, pour fonder sur des bases solides et durables le repos et la prospérité de ces contrées; et les habitans du Mont Liban recevront avec une profonde reconnaissance ce nouveau témoignage de la sollicitude bienveillante et paternelle de Sa Hautesse.

Intimement persuadé de l'opportunité des dispositions que la Sublime Porte vient de prendre, je me félicite de pouvoir me livrer avec confiance à l'espoir que tous ses efforts se réuniront dorénavant pour consolider une œuvre sanctionnée par la volonté souveraine, et que le choix judicieux des deux Gouverneurs indigènes, abandonné aujourd'hui, par respect pour les droits de souveraineté de Sa Hautesse, au libre arbitre de la Sublime Porte, sera de nature à assurer le succès que le Sultan et les Puissances ses amies et alliées se promettent de la sage exécution de cette mesure.

Je prie, &c.,
(Signé) E. DE WAGNER.

Inclosure 8 in No. 110.

M. de Wagner to M. de Wildenbruch, Prussian Consul-General at Beyroul.

Monsieur,

Constantinople, ce 19 Décembre, 1842.

JE me félicite de pouvoir vous annoncer que la Sublime Porte, par déférence aux conseils bienveillans et unanimes des Cinq Grandes Puissances, vient de prendre la résolution de confier l'administration du Mont Liban à deux chefs indigènes choisis parmi les Druses et les Maronites, et relevant de l'autorité supérieure du Pacha de Saïda.

Je m'empresse de vous transmettre ci-joint copie de la communication que le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères a faite à ce sujet aux Représentans des Cinq Puissances, ainsi que de la réponse préalable et analogue à celle de MM. mes collègues, que j'ai faite à Sarim Effendi.

Le Gouvernement du Roi partage la conviction intime de ses Alliées, que la mesure proposée à la Sublime Porte et à laquelle elle vient de donner son assentiment, est la plus propre, sinon la seule, qui puisse fonder sur des bases solides et durables le repos et la prospérité de ces contrées. J'aime à croire que les habitans du Liban, reconnaissans de la réalisation de leurs desirs, renonceront désormais à leurs dissensions intestines, et justifieront de cette manière la condescendance de la Sublime Porte à leurs vœux les plus chers et l'intérêt bienveillant que les Cours Européennes n'ont cessé de leur témoigner.

Les directions contenues dans les dernières dépêches de son Excellence M. le Baron de Bülow ne me laissent aucun doute, Monsieur, que le Gouvernement du Roi ne soit désireux de prêter, ainsi que ses Alliés, tout son

appui moral à l'exécution de la mesure adoptée par la Sublime Porte, et je suis persuadé que vous vous empresserez, Monsieur, tout en évitant soigneusement de donner ombrage aux autorités Turques par une ingérence trop directe, à seconder les efforts de MM. vos collègues pour contribuer autant qu'il dépendra de vous, à amener dans le Mont Liban un état de choses conforme aux vœux des Cinq Cours.

Agréez, &c.,
(Signé) E. DE WAGNER.

No 111.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)

(No. 254.)

My Lord,

Buyukderé, December 17, 1842.

IN answer to a message which I sent to Sarim Effendi, complaining of the renewed employment of Albanian troops in Mount Lebanon, on the authority of a despatch which I received yesterday from Lieutenant-Colonel Rose, his Excellency assures me that his former promise on that subject has been carried into effect, under the express commands of the Porte; that he has no knowledge of the Albanians having been again sent into the Mountain, and cannot imagine that I have been correctly informed.

I am the more surprised at the clear and positive language which appears to have been used by Sarim Effendi, as my despatches from Syria were brought by a Turkish steamer, which, it is to be presumed, was also the bearer of despatches to the Government.

At all events, it is satisfactory to find that the Turkish Minister does not shrink from his former assurance, on a point to which Her Majesty's Government so justly attach a deep importance.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 112.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)

(No. 255.)

My Lord,

Buyukderé, December 17, 1842.

INCLOSED herewith is the copy of a despatch addressed by Count Nesselrode to M. de Bouténéff, on the subject of Syria. I received the despatch itself from M. de Bouténéff, and although it has happened to arrive after the conclusion of the question to which it relates, I should act unjustly not to disclaim the slightest suspicion of any renewed irritation, on the part of Russia, in this instance.

M. de Basili's conduct in Syria continues to give occasional uneasiness to Colonel Rose; and the recent arrival from Constantinople of a Russian agent, named Pezzoni, in that country, has drawn much attention there. I can only say, that nothing in M. de Bouténéff's language or conduct has come to my knowledge to warrant a suspicion of unfair play; and though I was lately struck with the favour shown towards the Turkish operations in one of M. Basili's reports to him, as contrasted with Colonel Rose's account of the same incidents, I cannot conceal from your Lordship that M. de Bourqueney described the report of the French Consul at Beyrout as agreeing with that of M. Basili.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 112.

Count Nesselrode to M. de Bouténéff.

Monsieur,

St. Pétersbourg, le 12 Novembre, 1842.

LE Baron Brunnow nous a fait part de la communication qu'il a adressée à votre Excellence en date du 12 Octobre, au sujet des instructions itératives transmises à Sir Stratford Canning relativement au rétablissement d'un chef Chrétien dans le Liban.

Pour donner plus de poids aux remontrances faites à la Porte sur les affaires de Syrie, le Gouvernement Anglais avait réclamé notre assistance, et M. Titow a été appelé par ma dépêche du 11 Août à se joindre aux démarches de l'Ambassadeur Britannique à Constantinople. Cette pièce et les informations que le Baron Brunnow a directement fait parvenir à votre Excellence, ont épuisé la matière, et me dispensent de m'étendre sur les considérations qui doivent conseiller impérieusement au Divan, de ne pas tarder plus longtemps à donner son adhésion au plan proposé par les Puissances amies.

Appréciant entièrement les vues et les intentions du Gouvernement Britannique dans cette question, le Ministère Impérial croit devoir, à la suite des nouvelles instances du Cabinet de Londres, vous inviter, Monsieur, à vouloir bien seconder les efforts de Sir Stratford Canning, et à user de votre influence auprès de la Porte, dans le but de faire replacer les Chrétiens du Liban, comme ils l'ont été *ad antiquo*, sous l'autorité immédiate de chefs qui professent leur croyance. L'instruction précitée dont M. Titow a été muni en date régle à la conduite de votre Excellence, la mettra à même de se pénétrer du vif intérêt que l'Empereur attache à cet égard aux populations du Mont Liban, soient remplies d'une manière consciencieuse.

Recevez, &c.,
(Signé) NESSELRODE.

No. 113.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 6.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 20, 1843.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatches from No. 248, of the 7th of December, to No. 263, of the 18th of December, both inclusive; and with reference to those among them in which your Excellency gives an account of the course adopted by yourself and your colleagues on receiving the reply of the Porte on the subject of the future government of Syria, I have the satisfaction to acquaint your Excellency, that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your proceedings on that matter, and are highly gratified with the success which has attended your Excellency's zealous and persevering efforts in carrying into effect the objects pointed out in the instructions with which you have from time to time been furnished.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 114.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 25, 1843.)

(No. 266.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 31, 1842.

IN obedience to your Lordship's commands I have applied to the Ex-Emir Beshir El-Cassim for a statement of his claims upon the Porte. They consist of lands usurped by the Druses, of moveable property plundered, and

of arrears of salary for himself and persons in his employment. El-Cassim does not wish to prosecute his claim to the lands at present. The list of the moveable or personal property which he claims, comprizes a great variety of objects difficult to be recovered, to be estimated, or to be ascertained. The arrears of salary amount to 84,000 piastres a-month during the term of more than two years, to which his administration of Mount Lebanon extended. The Porte referred this claim to the Treasurer, who is alleged to have agreed with El Cassim for the amount of his allowances and of those assigned to the individuals who served under his authority. The Treasurer's report, if given in, has not yet been communicated to me. I can only state, in the mean time, that on the side of El-Cassim there is probably much exaggeration, on that of the Porte an equal reluctance to admit his demands, and on both sides a want of method and explicitness, which makes it difficult to ascertain the equity of the case, and nearly as difficult to obtain a clear statement of it. I propose to return to the subject as soon as I have anything more ample or decisive to communicate, and your Lordship, I trust, understands that I have already on more than one occasion employed the influence of Her Majesty's Embassy in favour of El-Cassim and his pending interests.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 115.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 9.)

(Extract.)

Constantinople, January 17, 1843.

I AVAILED myself of the opportunity to inquire as to what had been done in favour of the ex-Emir Beshir El-Cassim. The Effendi replied that a firman had been issued for the restitution of that part of his property which had been lost in the late troubles, and that orders had been given for paying him those arrears of his appointment which were really due, out of the tribute collected from Mount Lebanon.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

CORRESPONDENCE

WITH

HER MAJESTY'S EMBASSY AT CONSTANTINOPLE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF SYRIA.

PRINTED SOLELY FOR THE USE OF THE CABINET.